JUMP COMICS

巻ノ四十八

歓呼の里!!

# NARUTO -ナルト-

岸本斉史

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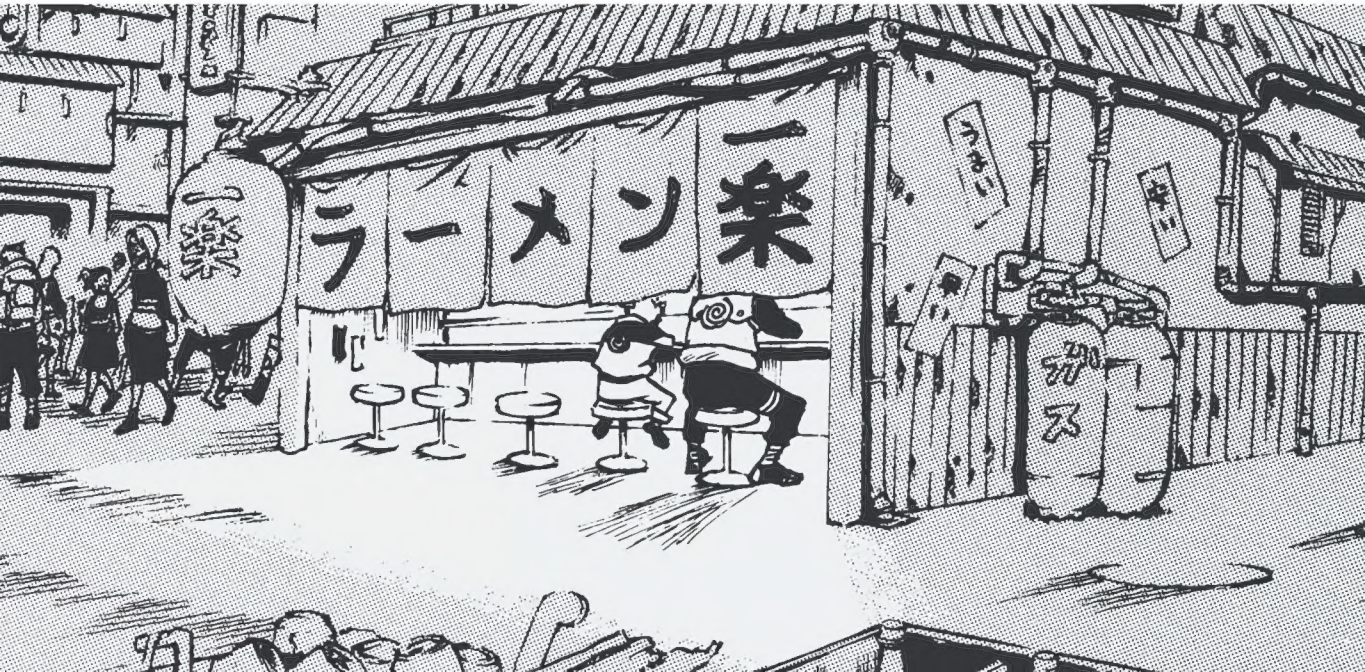
岸本斉史

Ever since I wrote in the author's note of the previous book, volume 47, "The finale having been settled, I am drawing full steam ahead," lots of folks have been asking me, "Is the series ending soon?" but it is simply that the premise has been set; it will keep going for a long, long time! I shall not stop drawing at full steam, so please continue enjoying *Naruto* until the end!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2009*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



JUMP COMICS

# NARUTO

巻ノ四十八

## 歓呼の里!!

岸本斉史

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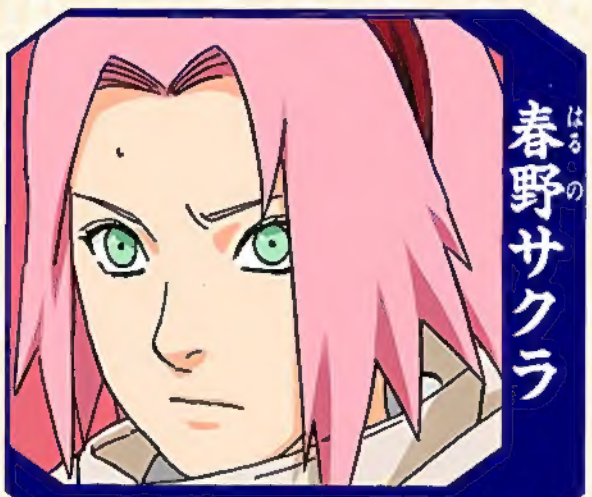
# 主な登場人物&あらすじ

うずまきナルト

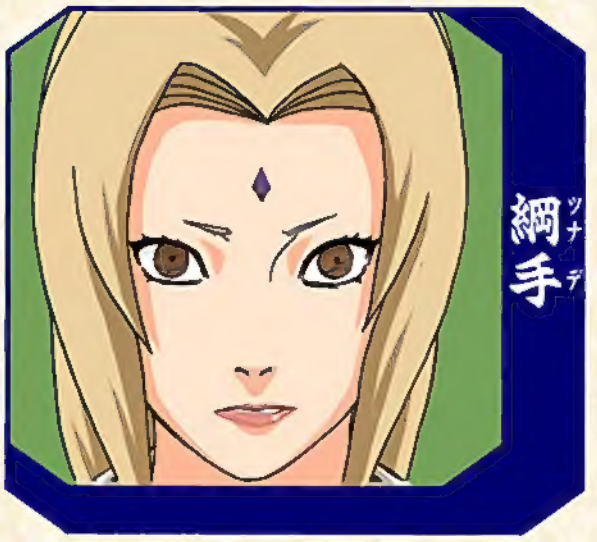
うちはサスケ

はたけカカシ


春野サクラ

サイ

ヤマト


綱手

自来也

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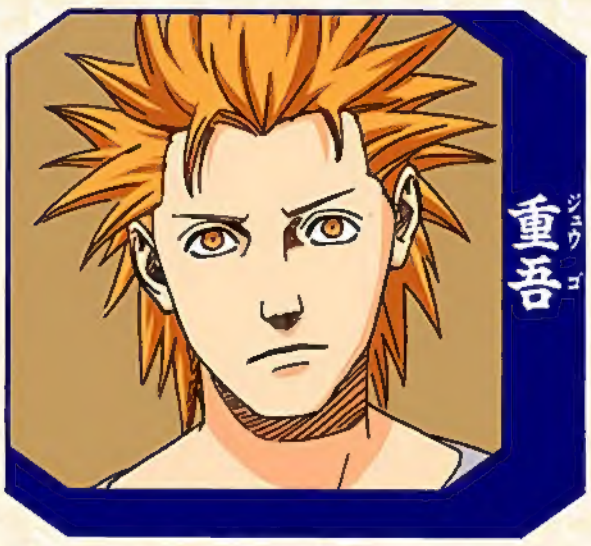

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# NARUTO
## ーナルトー

# 巻ノ四十八

## 歓呼の里!!

もくじ


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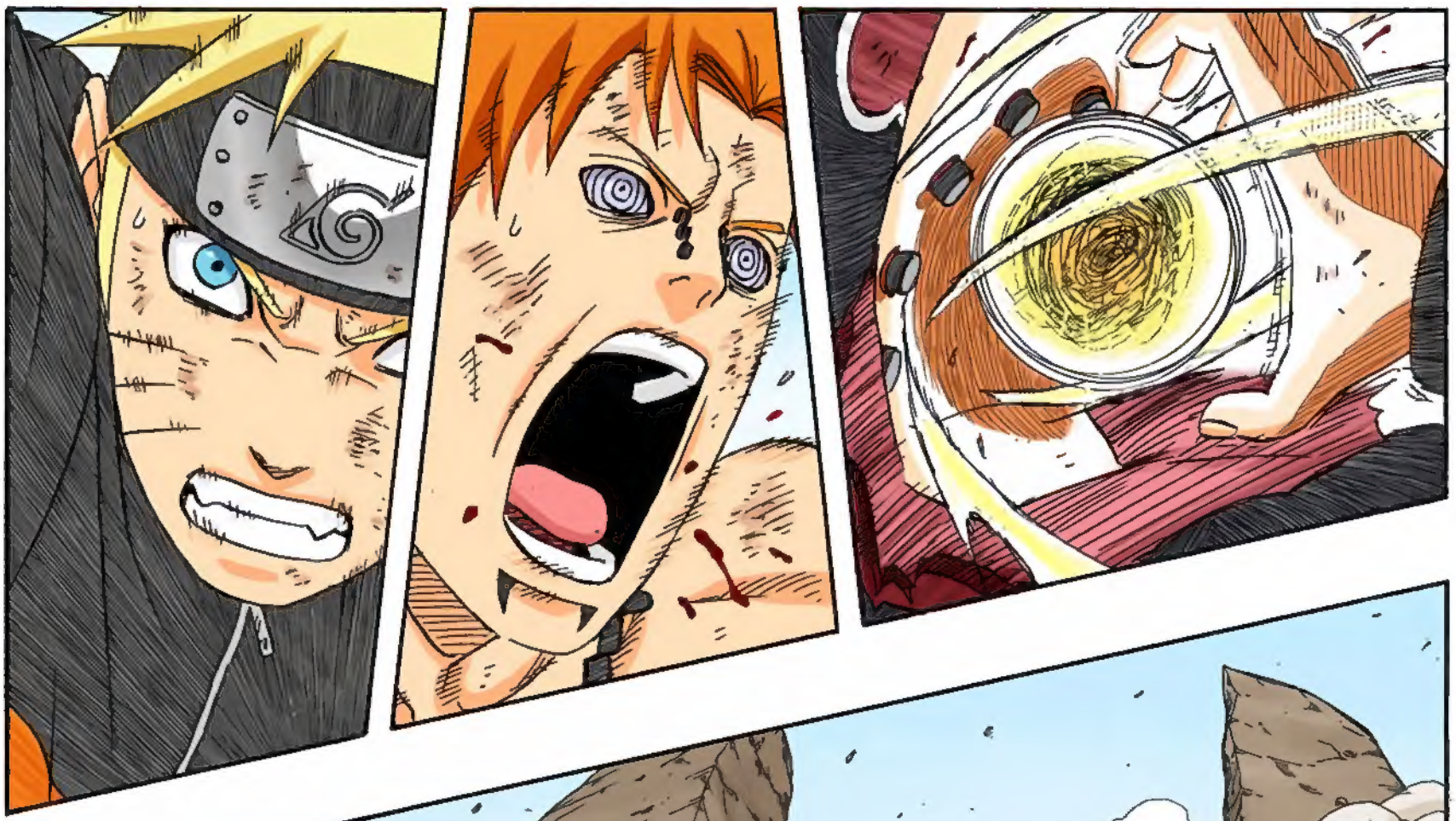
# ナンバー 443：対面(たいめん)!! THE INTERVIEW!!



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THE INTERVIEW!!

# ナンバー 443：対面(たいめん)!!

ドン

ARGH!

ゴゴゴゴ

UGH!

ズサッ

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...THE LAST PAIN IS BROKEN.

NAGATO

HUF

UNF

HUF

HUF

ズズ…

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IF I TAKE 'EM OUT, HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE.

THIS IS HOW PAIN GETS CHAKRA...







WE BOTH WANT THE PEACE MASTER JIRAIYA ENVISIONED.

YOU AND I SEEK THE SAME THING.





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THE JUSTICE I DELIVERED AGAINST KONOHA...

...IS NO DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO TO ME.

BOTH MOTIVATE D BY JUSTICE.

YOU AND I ARE THE SAME

YOU STRIVE FOR YOUR JUSTICE... AND I FOR MINE.

EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME PAIN WHEN LOSING WHAT IS PRECIOUS.

YOU AND I HAVE BOTH SHARED THAT PAIN.

THAT IS THE TRUTH.

AND EVEN IF YOU DO BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THEM... YOU STILL MAY NOT TRULY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

YOU CANNOT TRULY COMPREHEND SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTIVATIONS UNLESS YOU KNOW THE SAME PAIN THEY DO.

...DO YOU FINALLY COMPR EHEND PAIN?

.....

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!

I DO NOT SEE PEOPLE AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN PETTY CREATURES THAT WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

THIS IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS HISTORY.

...AND A VICIOUS CYCLE OF HATRED WILL BE SET IN MOTION.

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ARE YOU GOING?

YOU'LL NEED REINFORCE-MENTS...

THE SHINOBI WORLD IS RULED BY HATRED.

NO!

I'M GOING ALONE!

NARUTO HAS DEFEATED THE SIXTH PAIN.

YOU REALLY OVERDID IT...

.....

THANK YOU, SAKURA...

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!

!

HE'S FATIGUED... BUT OTHERWISE OKAY.

THE EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES?!

WHAT IS NARUTO'S CONDITION?

LEAVE IT TO NARUTO!

I'M SO GLAD... NARUTO ...!

PHEW ...

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHY WOULD HE BE SO RECK-LESS?!

HE... IS CURRENTLY HEADING TOWARD THE MASTERMIND'S LOCATION, ALONE.

AND WHERE IS NARUTO RIGHT NOW?

GOT IT!

MASTER GUY! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD OVER THERE!

!

PLEASE LEAD US TO NARUTO!

.....

HE'S WEAKENED!

I DON'T CARE! HE'S DONE ENOUGH ON HIS OWN!

NARUTO HIMSELF DOES NOT DESIRE REINFORCEMENTS.

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HAH HAH HAH!

IT'S NARUTO ...

WHAT IS IT?

!

!

NARUTO!

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...DID YOU WIN OUT AGAINST THE SIXTH PAIN?!

YOU'RE HERE...

MASTERS ...

WON, LOST...

...THAT'S NOT WHAT REALLY MATTERS

.....

WHAT HAPPENED?

.....

.....!?

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

!

.....

.....

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN...

YEAH... I FOUND HIM WHILE I WAS IN SAGE MODE.

YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE PAIN MASTER?!

IN ANY CASE, I'M ON MY WAY TO THE MASTERMIND'S PLACE.

PLEASE DON'T COME WITH ME... I WANT TO GO ON ALONE.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CHECK OUT...

BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WANT TO GO ON ALONE?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

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.....

I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH THE PAIN MASTER.

WHAT? CHECK OUT?

...BUT WE'RE WAY BEYOND THE POINT WHERE TALKING CAN RESOLVE THINGS!!

WE'RE ALL GRATEFUL THAT YOU DEFEATED THE PAINS...

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SELFISH?!!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT CRUSHING THE PAIN MASTER, ALL HIS SUBORDINATES AND THE ENTIRE ENEMY VILLAGE IS THE SOLUTION?!!

THEN!

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NO!

OF COURSE NOT!!

AND WHAT IS TALKING GOING TO ACCOMPLISH ?!

HE'S AN ENEMY THAT BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST KONOHA! YOU CAN'T BE THINKING OF FORGIVING HIM!!

WHAT THEN?!

HE KILLED MY MASTER AND MESSED UP THE VILLAGE AND EVERYONE! OF COURSE I DON'T FORGIVE HIM!!

JUST LET HIM GO...

...BUT...

LOOK, HE'S THE ONE WHO STOPPED THE PAINS.

SHIK-AKU!

I'M SURE HE'S GOT SOMETHING IN MIND.

COME, LET'S LET NARUTO GO ON ALONE, LIKE HE WANTS TO...

INOICHI ...

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THANKS, MASTER SHIKAKU

WHERE'D I GO? I WENT TO LECTURE NARUTO... NOT TO BE ALL DEPRESSED.

I HADN'T PLANNED ON IT... MY LEGS JUST MOVED OF THEIR OWN ACCORD

THAT KID'S GOT SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAS.

HE'S GOING TO BECOME A VERY IMPORTANT SHINOBI TO THIS VILLAGE.

WHEN I'M WITH NARUTO...

...HE MAKES ME WANT TO WALK WITH HIM, AT HIS SIDE...

.....

LET'S PUT OUR FAITH IN NARUTO.

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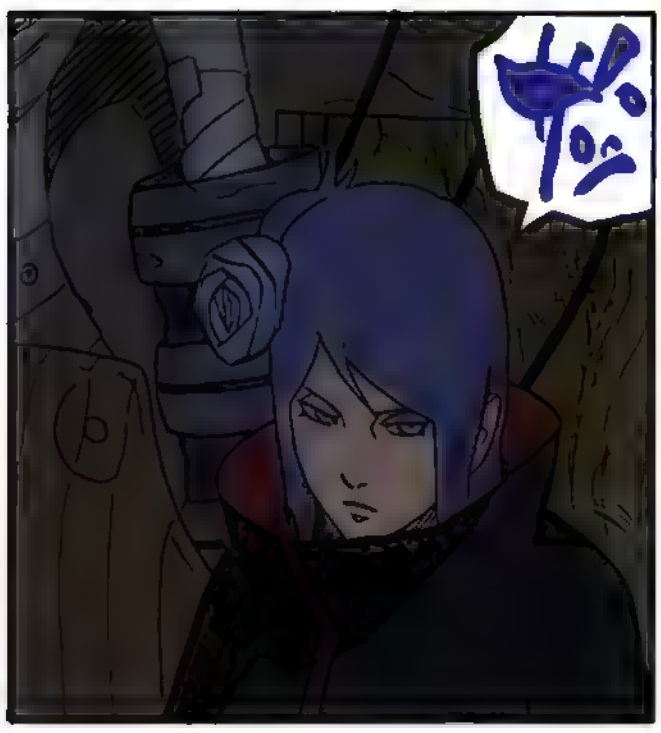


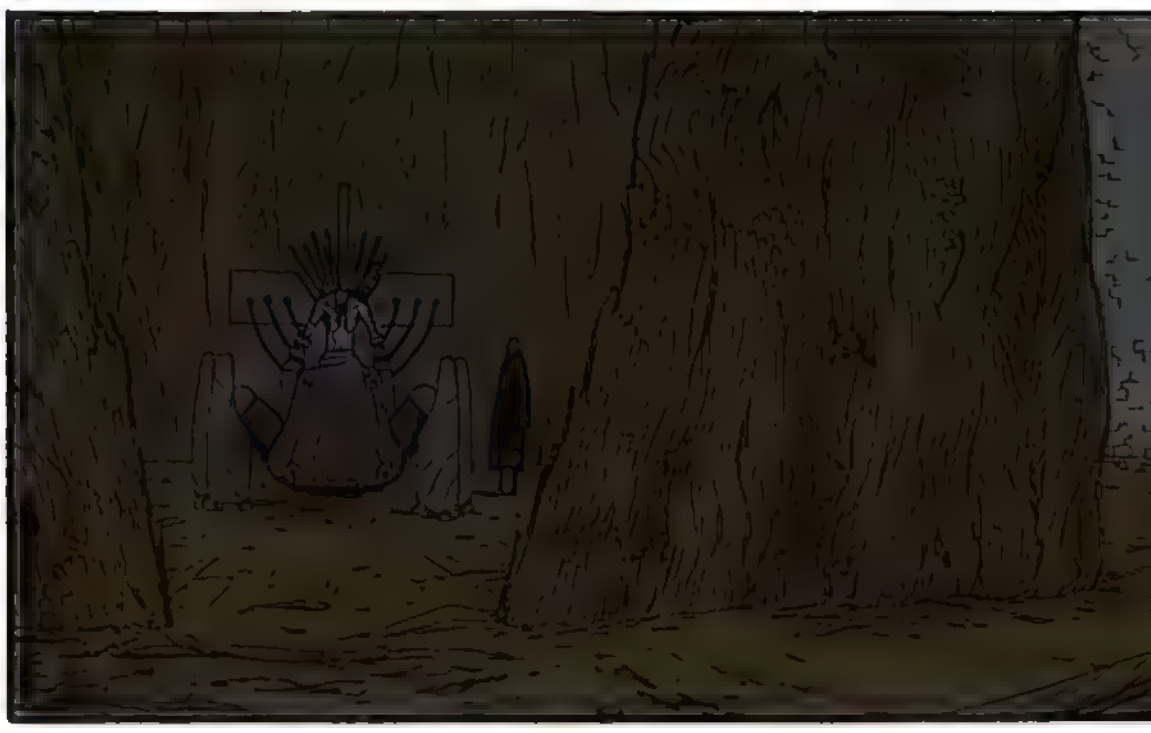

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BUT NAGATO ...

KONAN, STAY OUT OF THIS.

SO, THE PEACEMAKER COMES TOT-TERING IN.

YOU IN THE BACK, ARE YOU THE REAL PAIN?

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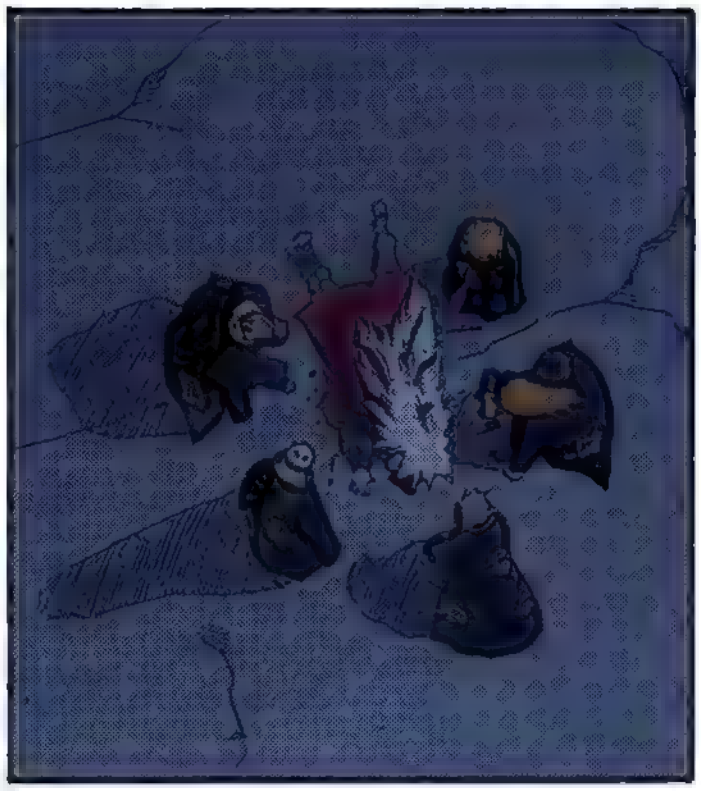
# 444: THE RESPONSE

# ナンバー 444：こたえ



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...AND A VICIOUS CYCLE OF HATRED WILL BE SET IN MOTION.

YOU'RE FACING THE OBJECT OF YOUR VENDETTA...

DO YOU WISH TO EXACT REVENGE?

DO YOU HATE ME?

BUT YOU SEE... THAT'S WHY I FORMED THE AKATSUKI TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF HATRED.

YOU WILL ONLY GET PERSONAL SATISFACTION.

KILLING NAGATO AND ACHIEVING VENGEANCE ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

...THE MONSTER KNOWN AS HATE WILL ALWAYS GIVE BIRTH TO NEW PAINS.

THUS, SO LONG AS WE HAVE SHINOBI CULTURE

.....

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YOUR PROPER ROLE IS TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO ME AND TO THE PEACE I SHALL CONSTRUCT.

THERE IS NOTHING YOU, WHO HAVE NO ANSWERS, CAN EVER DO.

ドゥ…

ドバッ

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FROM THIS SHORT DISTANCE ...

...I CAN COMPLETELY MANIPULATE YOUR EVERY MOVE WITH MY CHAKRA.

FOR YOU ARE INVALUABLE, JINCHŪRIKI.

DON'T WORRY, I'VE AVOIDED HITTING A VITAL SPOT.

!

ゾクッ

な…!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

ﾌﾟﾙﾌﾟﾙ

WHAT'S WRONG, NAGATO?

HE DELIBER-ATELY... LET ME...

CHECK OUT... WHAT?

BUT I ALSO WANTED TO CHECK SOME STUFF OUT.

I CAME HERE... TO TALK TO YOU.

AND ...?

.....

...WHEN I FINALLY LOOKED THE OBJECT OF MY VENDETTA IN THE FACE... AND WHAT I WOULD DO. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW, MYSELF...

I WANTED TO SEE HOW I WOULD ACTUALLY FEEL...

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I M SO MAD I M SHAKING.. . I LL NEVER GET OVER

ギュッ

I REALLY CAN T FORGIVE

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ドドドド

HE FOUGHT OFF NAGATO'S CHAKRA FROM SO CLOSE...!

NO...!

ドガ

油

I'M GLAD I MADE YOU MY STUDENT!

バタン

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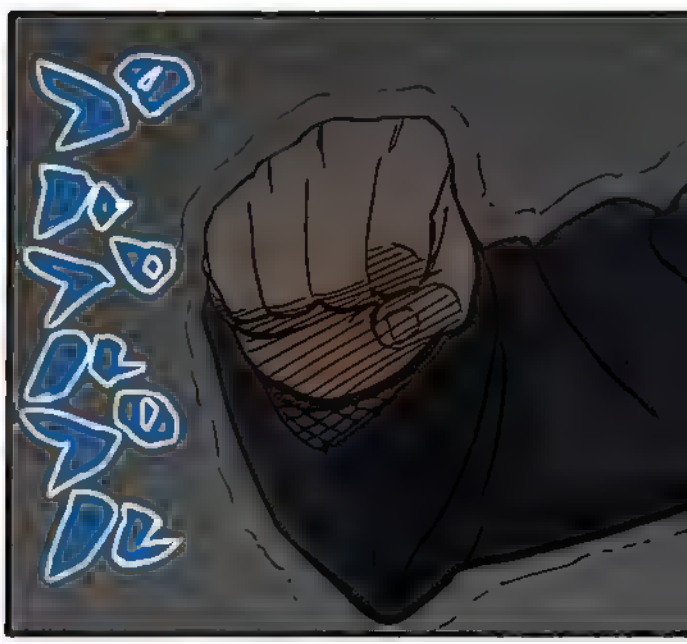
ピカッ
ドドドドド

PERVY SAGE SAID HE TRULY BELIEVED THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER...
...AND LIVE IN HARMONY.

!?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HUMAN LOVE ISN'T SO CHEAP THAT YOU CAN JUST SWEEP IT UNDER THE RUG.

BUT THAT SHOULDN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU CANNOT FORGIVE ME.

THINGS JUST AREN'T THAT SIMPLE...

NOW... I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT PERVY SAGE WAS TRYING TO SAY.

REALITY IS TOO DIFFERENT.

MASTER JIRAIYA'S WORDS REFLECT HIS ANTIQUATED IDEALIST PHILOSOPHY.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

YEAH...

IF THAT IS YOUR JUSTICE, THEN THAT'S FINE.

...YOU ARE NOT A GOD.

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY... BUT ALL YOU WANT IS TO EXACT YOUR OWN PERSONAL REVENGE!

ズッ...

...AND THAT YOU'D BRING PEACE TO THIS SHINOBI WORLD.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULD TAKE ME DOWN...

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.....

...CAN YOU STILL TRULY BELIEVE MASTER JIRAIYA' S RIDICULOUS WORDS?!

NOW THAT YOU SEE REALITY...

WHAT?

I WANTED TO ASK YOU...

WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU HAD ALL BEEN PERVY SAGE'S DISCIPLES

I MEAN, I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE NOT LIKE THOSE OTHER AKATSUKI, WHO JUST REVEL IN KILLING...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT YOU...

HOW YOU ALL, WHO USED TO BE HIS STUDENTS, COULD END UP LIKE THIS...

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.....

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT PAIN.

VERY WELL ...

...AND THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MY FINAL RESPONSE.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES ...

I WANT TO HEAR HIS RESPONSE

WAIT, KONAN...

NAGATO, WHAT A WASTE OF TIME! WHY DON'T YOU JUST...

.....

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I HAVE EXPERIENCED TWO GREAT PAINS.

ONE WAS THE DEATH OF MY PARENTS.

IT'S A STORY THAT TOOK PLACE IN AMEGAKURE, WHICH GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE CONFLICTS OF THE GREAT NATIONS AND WAS TURNED INTO A BATTLEFIELD.

ガヨン

ガタン

YEAH, CANS!

FOUND ANYTHING YET?

シーン

LET'S GET OUTSIDE WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED ...

I'M SCARED ...

WHAT IF THEY SEE US?

WHATEVER. LET'S JUST EAT... I'M STARVING!

NAH, ONLY THREE DAYS.

OUR FIRST MEAL IN FOUR DAYS!

WE SHOULD SEARCH THE REST OF THIS PLACE AFTERWARDS. WE MIGHT FIND MORE STUFF.

カサッ

カサッ

DON'T WORRY... JUST BE COMPLETELY QUIET...

サッ

ドン

YUM ...!

ドドドド

ガシャーン

COLORED
MANSA.COM

ドン

WHO'S THERE

ROAR!!

RUN, NOW!!

GAH! ENEMIES ?!

!!

WAH!

NAGA-
TO...

HURRY...
RUN...

NAGATO,
GO!

!

NO!!

!

ドサッ

AAH...

カッ...

...THEY'RE NOT SHINOBI!

OH NO...

I-IT'S A...

...KID ...?

HUF

HUF

HOW'D THIS HAPPEN...?

WHY'D WE THINK THEY WERE THE ENEMY?!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

HUF

HUF

I'M SO SORRY, BOY...

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE STILL ANY CIVILIANS IN THE WAR ZONE.

RAAAAAAAHHHWR!!!

!

UNH...

ナンバー
# 445：世界の天辺

FATHER? MOTHER ?!

WHAT HAPPENED?

HUH?!

# 445: TOP OF THE WORLD

WAAAAH!!!

.....

I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT PAIN...

...IT STILL HURTS!

MY PARENTS ...

...DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR KONOHA SHINOBI WAR.

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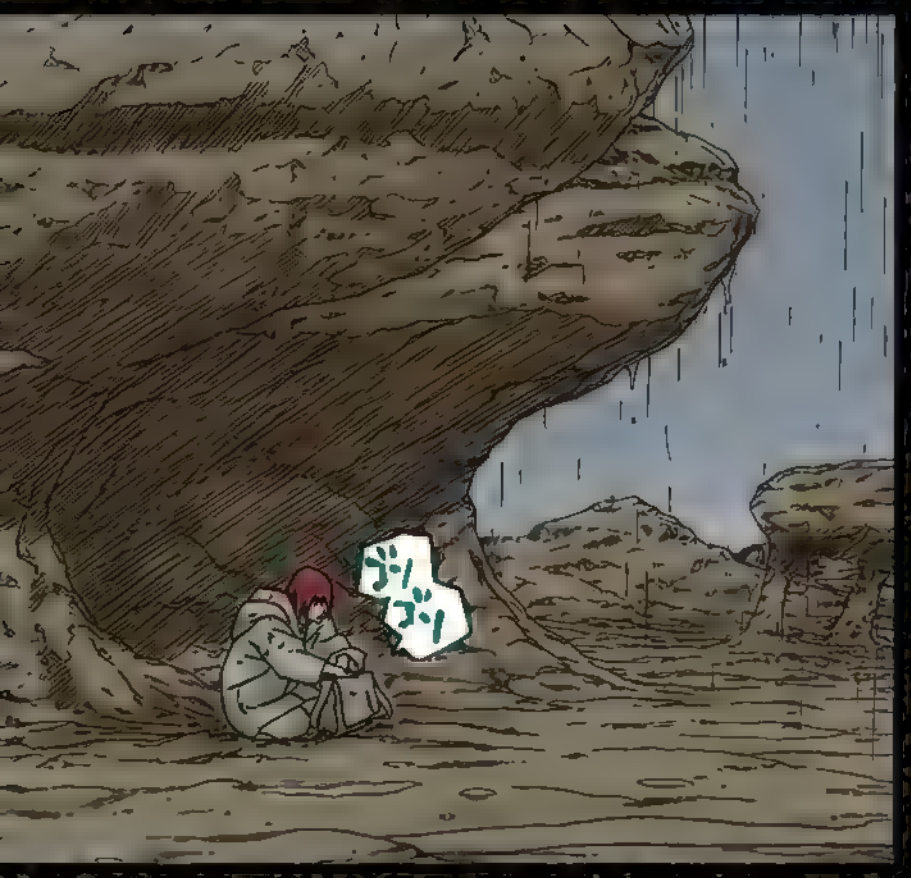
...I WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED THOSE TWO KONOHA SHINOBI.

IT WAS ONLY MUCH LATER I REALIZED ...

THAT PAIN TRANSFORMED INTO HATE. BUT IT ALSO BROUGHT MY POWERS INTO BLOOM.

...FATHER... MOTHER...

GOOD BYE...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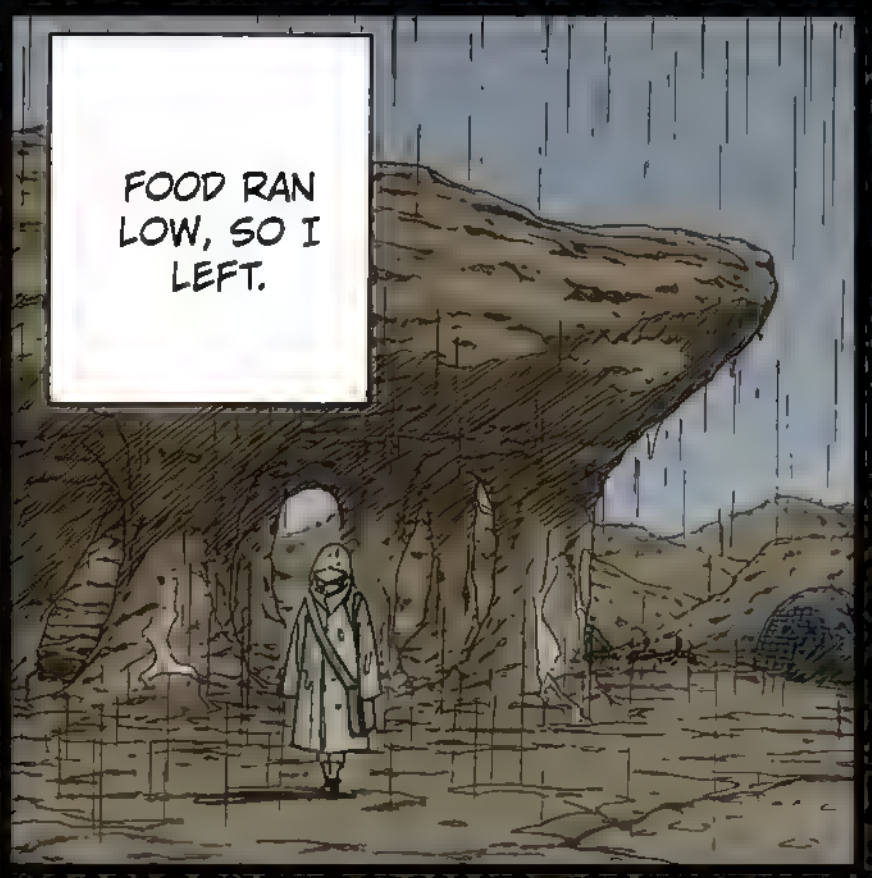
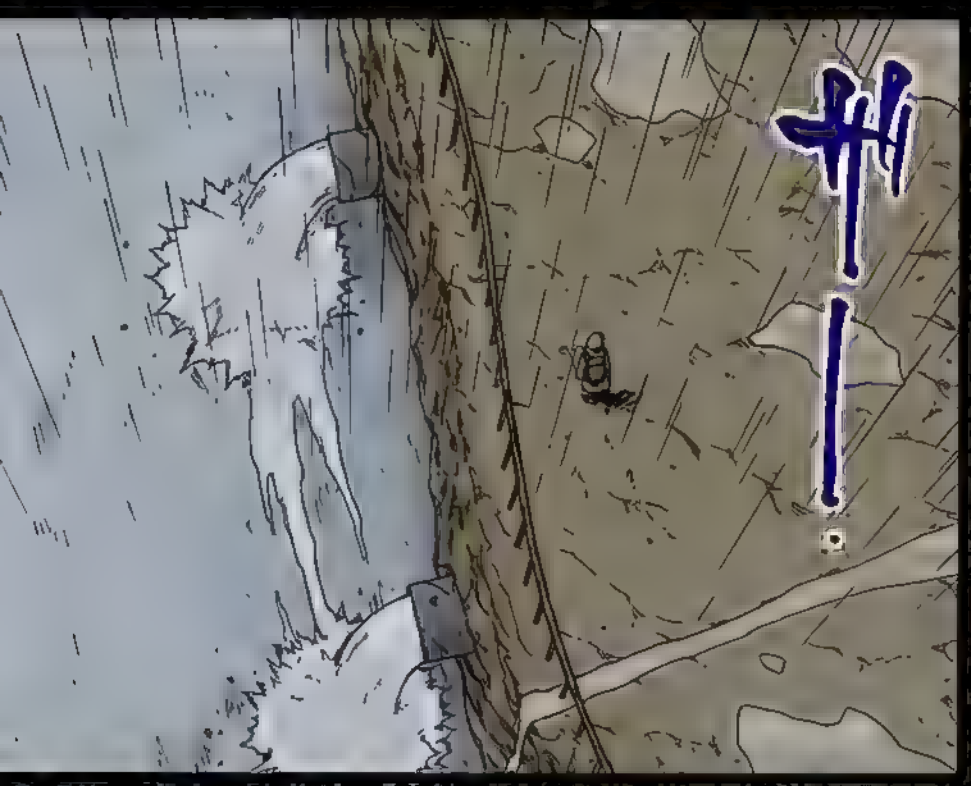

FOOD RAN LOW, SO I LEFT.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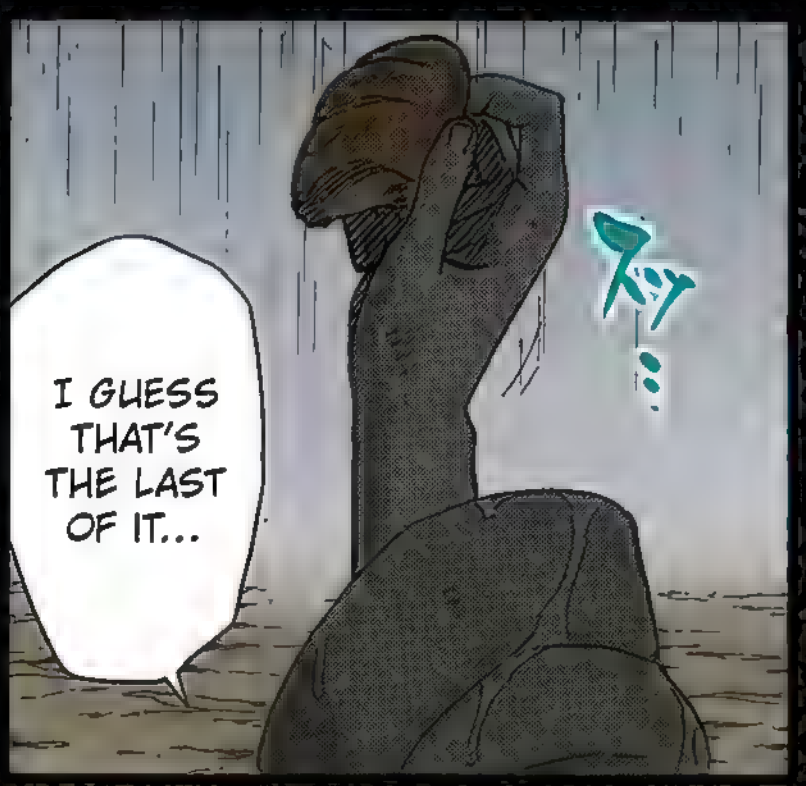
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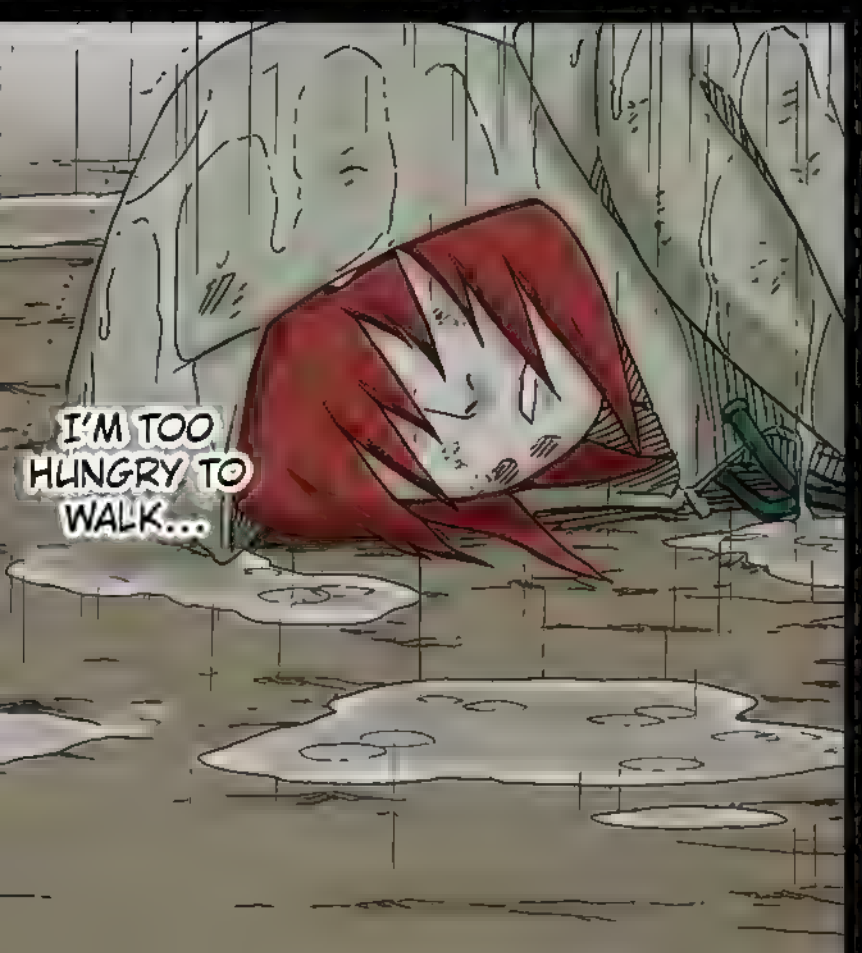
I GUESS THAT'S THE LAST OF IT...


I'M TOO HUNGRY TO WALK...

ドサ

ザー

!?

プロプロ

ドンドン

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO EAT.

DON'T FOLLOW ME. I'VE GOT NOTHING FOR YOU.

クゥーン

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EATEN...!

ガチャ

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT... THAT YOU CAN SPARE?

EXCUSE ME...

IT'S...

ドンドン

ドクン..

I'M REALLY SORRY. MAYBE ASK SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU KNOW HOW THESE TIMES ARE. WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH FOR OURSELVES...

SORRY... I'VE GOT NOTHING FOR YOU.

UNH.

WOOF WOOF!

...BUT THIS WAS MY LAST STOP...

!

HUF

AM I GOING TO DIE HERE... LIKE THIS?

HUF

CAN'T MOVE ...

HERE...
EAT THIS...

UH-
HUH...

REAL-
LY?

.....

GULP

!

HUF

HUF

RRR RRR

.....

HERE ...

ハフ

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KONAN, WHO'RE THEY?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

AND A DOG TO BOOT...? YIKES.

.....

HE WAS DYING...

...CHIBI.

WEIRD NAME...

NO, CHIBI'S THE DOG...

THAT'S HOW I MET KONAN HERE...

...AND A BOY NAMED YAHIKO.

THEY WERE ALSO WAR ORPHANS. BUT THEY WERE STRONG, FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO STAY ALIVE.

I JOINED THEM.

COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US SOME ALMS?

ANY BIT WOULD HELP...

SCRAM!

スッ..

WE STOLE.

THERE WAS NO SYSTEM FOR HELPING ORPHANS IN THAT CHAOS RIDDEN SMALL NATION.

THIEVERY WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR ORPHANS TO SURVIVE.

BUT EVEN UNDER SUCH HARSH CIRCUMSTANCES, YAHIKO NEVER ABANDONED HOPE.

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DREAMS ...?

NAGATO, DO YOU HAVE DREAMS?

?

I'VE GOT DREAMS!

I'M NOT GONNA LIVE IN THIS DUMP FOREVER.

ONCE I RULE THE WORLD, WE WON'T EVER HAVE TO SUFFER AGAIN!

EXAC-TLY!!

WORLD... DOMIN-ATION...?

WORLD DOMIN-ATION!!

IF WE RULE THE WORLD, WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT.

ALSO, IF I DIE LIKE THIS...

...MY PA AND MA'S SOULS WON'T EVER REST IN PEACE!

THINK WE COULD GET RID OF WAR TOO?

WE'D BE LIKE GODS!

ARGH!

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ARE YOU ALL OKAY?

Y-YEAH ...

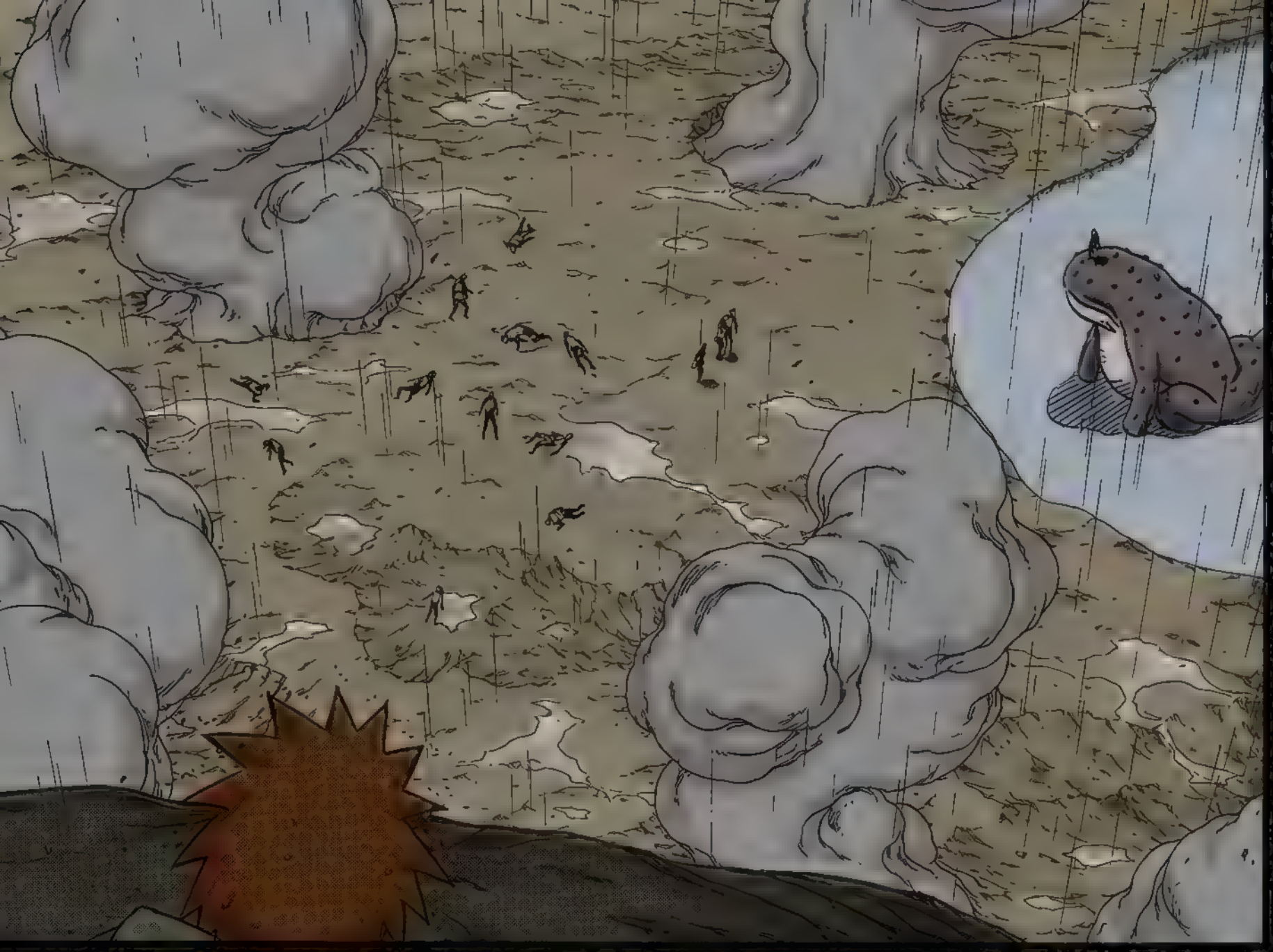
GAH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

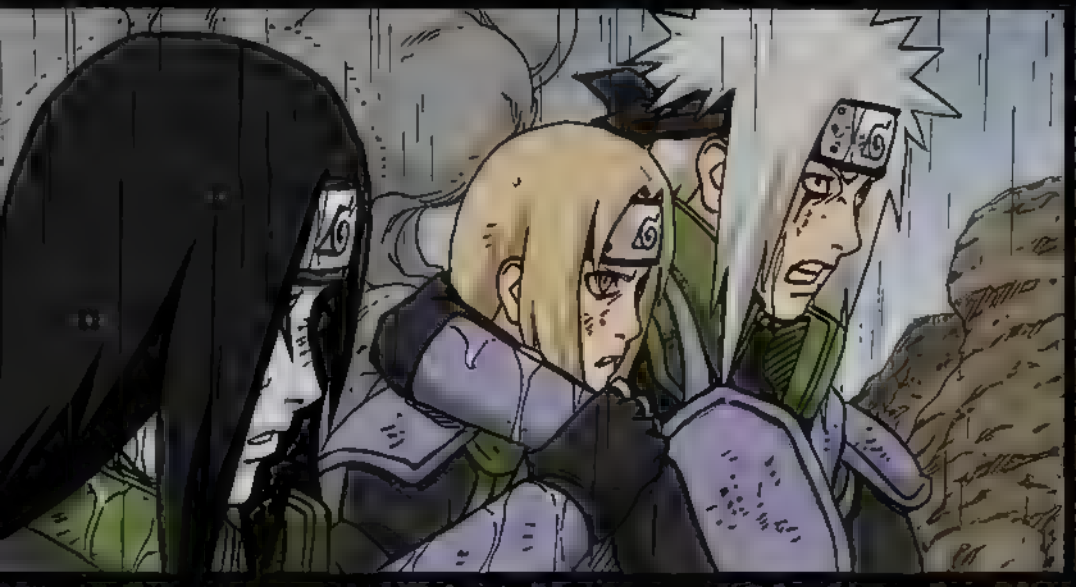
!

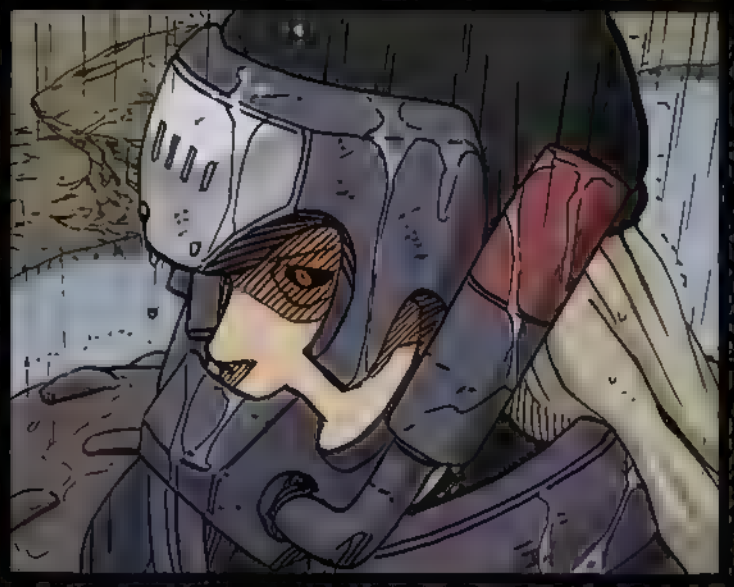
IT'S CHIBI!!

UGH ...

ドン ドン







YAHIKO. WHAT DO WE DO? CHIBI'S NOT BREATHING !!
!

HANZO AGAINST KONOHA SHINOBI...!
NO!
BATTLING SHINOBI RIGHT ON TOP OF US!

THEIR OPPONENT WAS THE LEADER OF AMEGAKURE ...HANZO...

...THE BATTLE WAS EXTREMELY INTENSE.

...THEY WHO WOULD LATER BECOME KNOWN AS THE GREAT SHINOBI THREE.

IT WAS MASTER JIRAIYA AND HIS CELL-MATES WHO WERE FIGHTING DOWN THERE...

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!

NO TIME NOW FOR HELPING CHIBI!

AND...

CHIBI...

キュ～ン...

WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?!!

RRAAGGGGH!

ゴッ

ゴッ

THIS WORLD IS ALL ABOUT NEVER-ENDING WAR!

...I WILL RULE THIS WORLD AND MAKE IT STOP!

トボ トボ

THAT'S ...

...WHEN YAHIKO'S DREAM BECAME MY OWN.

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MANGA.COM

# ナンバー446：ただ二人を守りたい

# 446: I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM

NAGATO, QUIT CRYIN'!

UNH... UH...

I'LL CHANGE THIS LAND!

JUST LIKE THIS LAND'S RAIN.

WHEN YOU GET BEAT DOWN, JUST CRYIN' OVER IT AIN'T GONNA CHANGE ANYTHING.

COLORED BY NARUTOMANGA.COM

.....

AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I NEED BIG STRENGTH, NOT JUST A BIG MOUTH!

I NEED TO LEARN NINJUTSU!

MASTER JIRAIYA...

AND WE RAN INTO THE SHINOBI THAT HAD BEEN FIGHTING HANZO.

AFTER THAT, WE STARTED SEARCHING FOR SHINOBI.

WHADDYA WANT?

BUT I COULDN'T TRULY ACCEPT A KONOHA SHINOBI.

.....

YOU... OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

SHALL I GET RID OF THEM?

WHA ?!

THEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF WE JUST PUT THEM OUT OF THEIR MISERY RIGHT NOW...

WE'VE SEEN SO MANY WAR ORPHANS. IT'S REALLY VERY SAD.

OROCH-IMARU, ENOU-GH!

YOU AND TSUNADE HEAD BACK WITHOUT ME. I'LL STAY HERE A WHILE AND LOOK AFTER THEM.

EXCUSE ME?!

ONLY UNTIL THEY CAN BETTER TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

THINK OF IT AS REPARATION.

INCID-ENT?

...A CERTAIN INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.

AND THEN, SOON AFTER HE STARTED LIVING WITH US...

BUT I STARTED REALIZING THAT MASTER JIRAIYA MIGHT BE DIFFERENT

WHEN YAHIKO WAS ALMOST KILLED, I STRUCK OUT AND KILLED THAT SHINOBI INSTEAD.

A RENEGADE SHINOBI ATTACKED US.

THE OCULAR JUTSU OF THE RINNEGAN.

IT SEEMS I HAD A SPECIAL POWER INSIDE ME.

COMPLE -TELY INVOLUN TARILY...

...BUT IN TERMS OF ME SPECIFICALLY, I FEEL HE WANTED TO HELP ME CONTROL THE POWER OF THE RINNEGAN.

MASTER SAID HE JUST WANTED US TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT OURSELVES ...

...BECAME SERIOUS ABOUT TEACHING US NINJUTSU.

AFTER THAT INCIDENT, EVEN MASTER JIRAIYA, WHO AT FIRST HADN'T INTENDED TO...

BUT MASTER RESCUED ME FROM THAT DARK PLACE.

I CONVINCED MYSELF I HAD DONE SOMETHING WRONG AND BECAME CONSUMED WITH GUILT.

BUT I FEARED MY OWN POWER.

HATE HAD CAUSED ME TO GO BERSERK.

YOU PROTECTED YOUR FRIEND... SO I BELIEVE WHAT YOU DID WAS THE RIGHT THING.

BUT THANKS TO YOU, YAHIKO IS ALIVE.

YOU KNOW, I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE IF WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT OR WRONG EITHER.

BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I'D ACKNOW-LEDGED MASTER.

NO ONE CAN FAULT YOU FOR THAT...

A PERSON MATURES, GROWS UP, BECAUSE YOU EXPERIENCE PAIN.

BUT IT IS BECAUSE ONE UNDERSTANDS SUCH PAIN THAT GENEROSITY TOWARD OTHERS BECOMES SECOND NATURE.

MASTER CONTINUED ON WITH THIS...

"ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN HURT, YOU LEARN WHAT IT IS TO HATE."

'IF YOU HURT ANOTHER, YOU BECOME HATED, IN ADDITION TO SHOULDERING A SENSE OF GUILT."

TO KNOW AND REFLECT ON PAIN, AND COME UP WITH MY OWN ANSWER.

AND HE TOLD ME THAT GROWING UP MEANS TO BECOME ABLE TO THINK AND MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS.

JUST LIKE YOU HAVEN'T.

...HE HADN'T FIGURED OUT A SOLUTION EITHER.

MASTER JIRAIYA SEEMED TO BE ASKING HIMSELF THE SAME QUESTION.

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BACK THEN, I WAS ABLE TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER RIGHT AWAY...

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS ME.

...I SEE.

THAT THIS WORLD IS JUST ONE WAR AFTER ANOTHER... IT'S FULL OF HATE.

I WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

MAS-TER

...WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS PONDERING?

I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW... WHAT PEACE IS...

AFTER WE TRAINED FOR THREE YEARS, BOTH MY BODY AND SOUL GREW STRONGER, AND I FELT AS IF I HAD MATURED.

HOWEVER, MASTER'S WORDS CONTINUED TO LURK DEEP DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

...FOR MASTER HAD TOLD ME THAT HE WONDERED IF THE SOLUTION LAY WITH MY RINNEGAN.

ONCE, A REALLY LONG TIME AGO...

...PEOPLE DID NOTHING BUT BATTLE. IT WAS ALL JUST ONE BIG UNENDING WAR.

THAT ERA WAS EVEN WORSE THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW.

ONE DAY A MYSTERIOUS MONK APPEARED.

HE WAS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER THE WORKINGS OF CHAKRA. HE TRIED TO LEAD THE WORLD TOWARD PEACE.

IT IS SAID HE TRAVELED ACROSS THE WORLD, PREACHING NINSHU, THE SHINOBI CREED.

TIME PASSED, AND NINSHU CAME TO BE CALLED NINJUTSU.

NINJUTSU STARTED OUT NOT AS WEAPONS, BUT AS TEACHINGS MEANT TO HELP HUMANS ACHIEVE PEACE.

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NARUTOFANSALCOM

"I AM HE WHO SHALL BRING PEACE AND ORDER." THOSE WERE SAID TO BE THE SAGE'S WORDS...

...AND I THINK HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN PEOPLE TRULY UNDERSTOOD ONE OTHER AND LIVED IN HARMONY...

THAT MONK WAS KNOWN AS THE SAGE OF SIX PATHS.

HE WAS CONSIDERED THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD... AND LIKE YOU, HE POSSESSED THE RINNEGAN.

MASTER CONFER-RED THE QUEST FOR PEACE ON ME...

...AND THEN LEFT US TO OURSELVES.

PERHAPS... YOU ARE A REINCARNATION OF THE SAGE.

I JUST GET THE FEELING THAT THE SAGE'S HOPES WERE BESTOWED UPON YOUR EYES.

WE STARTED GATHERING COMRADES, WITH YAHIKO AS OUR LEADER.

OUR ORGANIZATION QUICKLY GAINED FAME.

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HOWEVER, THE WORLD WAS CAUGHT UP IN A WAR BETWEEN THE THREE GREAT NATIONS OF STONE, KONOHA AND SAND.

PEOPLE APPROVED OF OUR PHILOSOPHY OF TRYING TO CONSTRUCT A PEACE THAT WAS MINIMALLY BASED ON MILITARY MIGHT.

BECAUSE HE COULD NO LONGER IGNORE OUR EXISTENCE.

RUMORS OF OUR ORGANIZATION REACHED THE AMEGAKURE LEADER HANZO, AND HE APPROACHED US.

WE DECIDED TO COOPERATE WITH HIS PLAN.

OUR POWER WOULD BE USED TO ELICIT MUTUAL AGREEMENT FROM ALL THE PARTIES.

HANZO PROPOSED TO MAKE US A NEXUS IN AN EFFORT TO LAUNCH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE GREAT NATIONS.

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MIS-FORT-UNES ...?

WHAT HAPPENED ?!

BUT THAT ENDED UP BEING THE BEGINNING OF ALL OF OUR MISFORTUNES.

WE WERE NAIVE CHILDREN.

YAHIKO DIED.

.....

IT WAS ALL A TRAP OF HANZO'S DESIGN.

HE WAS PARANOID THAT WE WERE GOING TO STEAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER AMEGAKURE FROM HIM...

AND FOR THAT PETTY FEAR, YAHIKO...

...DIED

!?

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...HANZO'S SUBORDINATES AND KONOHA'S BLACK OPS LAY IN WAIT.

THE NEXT DAY, AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WHERE THE NEGO-TIATIONS WERE SUPPOSED TO OCCUR...

HANZO, TO PROTECT HIS OWN AUTHORITY.

DANZO JOINED WITH HANZO IN ORDER TO USURP THE SEAT OF HOKAGE.

HANZO HAD ALLIED WITH THIS KONOHA MAN DANZO TO TRY TO ERADICATE US.

RESIST AND I MURDER HER INSTEAD!

YAHIKO... YOU LEAD THEM. SO YOU MUST DIE.

YOUR ORGANIZA-TION IS SIMPLY A NUISANCE.

UGH ...!

IF YOU DO, I'LL SPARE YOU AND THE GIRL.

YOU, REDHEAD... KILL YAHIKO WITH THAT.

NAGATO ...

.....

!

NAGATO, DON'T!!

FORGET ABOUT ME, JUST RUN AWAY, BOTH OF YOU!!

.....!

HUF

HUF

KILL ME.

NO!!

NAGATO !!

I JUST WANT TO PROTECT THEM.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS ME.

ドサッ

HURRY UP. DO YOU WANT THIS GIRL TO DIE?!

!

ドレミ

HUF

HUF

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ガ ザッ…

...YOU ARE... THE SAVIOR... OF THIS WORLD...

I KNOW... YOU CAN... DO IT...

...NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, YOU AND KONAN...

LIVE...

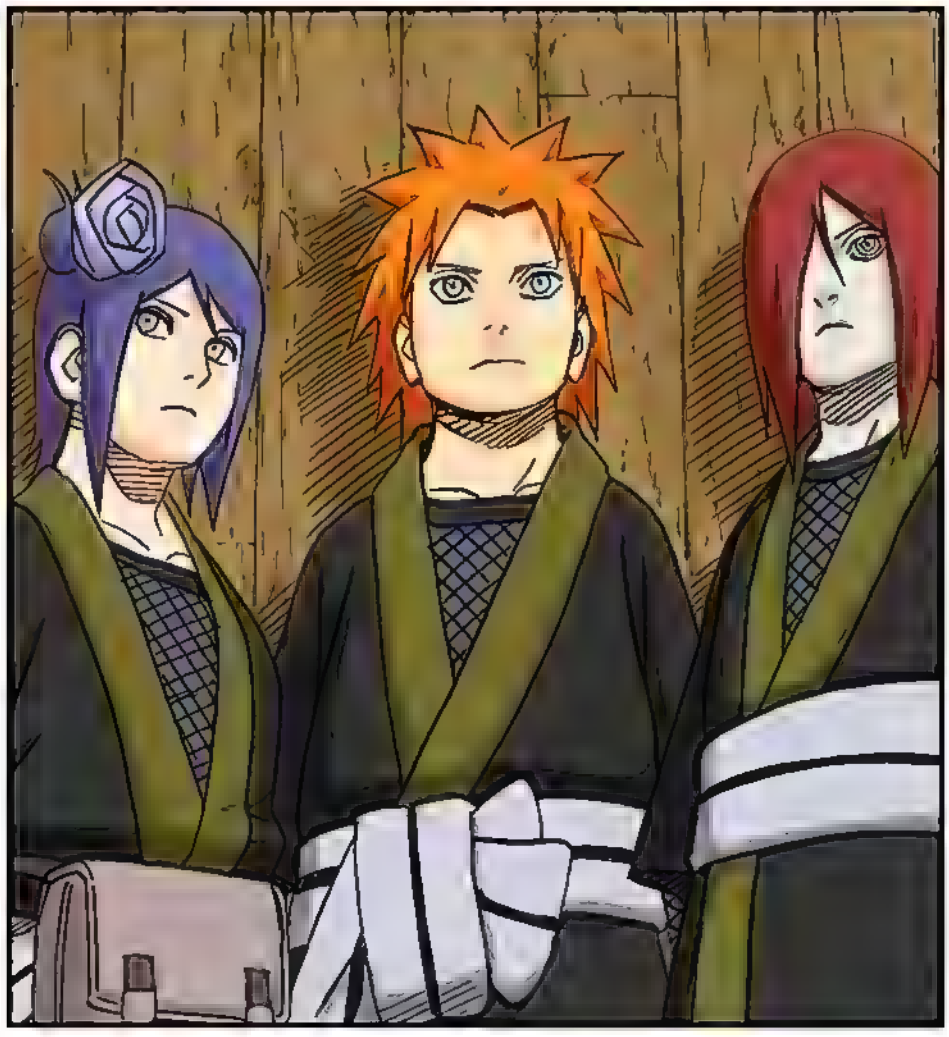
...I THOUGHT I HAD GROWN UP, BUT NOTHING HAD CHANGED AT ALL.

THAT WAS MY SECOND GREAT PAIN.

YAHIKO!!

I REALIZED THEN THAT THE ANSWER I HAD GIVEN JIRAIYA WAS WORTH NOTHING.

IT WAS THE SAME AS WHEN MY PARENTS DIED.



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# 447: I BELIEVE

# ナンバー 447：信じる(しん)

KILL HIM!

UNH ... UH...

I'VE GOT DREAMS!

ドン

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THIS WORLD IS ALL ABOUT NEVER-ENDING WAR...

...I WILL RULE THIS WORLD AND MAKE IT STOP!

COLORED

ダッ

HOW ?!

HE REPELLED THEM!

!

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야히코

UNH...

DID WE GET HIM?

KONAN, HOLD ON TO YAHIKO! JUST HANG ON!

NAGA-TO!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

メラメラ

ゴオオオ

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THAT'S ...!

GEDO STATUE!!

KUCHIYOSE SUMMONING!

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ARGH!

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GAH!

ｽﾞﾝ

NAGATO, NO, DON'T USE THAT!

COLORED
MUSANGA.COM

GRAWWWR!!!

GRAWWRR!!

WHA ... WHAT IS THAT?

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ドボン

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AAAAH!

GAAR!!!

ドドドド

COLORED BY MANGAL.COM

ドドド

WAH!

RUN! IF IT TOUCHES YOU. YOU DIE!!

GRAAWWW!!!

ｸﾞｧｧｧ!!

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NAGA-
TO...

RRRAAWR!!!

IT APPEARS YOU WERE IN THE SHADOWS AS THE REAL LEADER!

THAT YOU POSSESS THE RINNEGAN IS QUITE A SURPRISE.

ART OF TELEPOR-
TATION

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.....

AND FROM THEN ON, I TOOK OVER AS THE LEADER OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

YAHIKO DIED...

THEY KEPT DYING.

MANY, MANY OTHERS

SINCE THAT DAY, MANY OTHER COMRADES DIED IN BATTLE.

YOUR PEACE IS WON VIA VIOLENCE TOWARD US.

THE PEACE YOU LARGE NATIONS ENJOY ONLY EXISTS PRECARIOUSLY ATOP THE SACRIFICES OF US SMALL NATIONS.

THE SMALL COMMISSIONS THEY PAY TO KONOHAGAKU RE BECOME WAR FUNDS.

AND THE CITIZENS OF THE LAND OF FIRE, WHILE KNOWING THE TRUTH, STILL FALSELY PROCLAIM PEACE.

THE PEACE-ADDLED CITIZENS OF YOUR LAND OF FIRE...

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EVERYTHING MASTER JIRAIYA SAID IS JUST WISHFUL THINKING.

TRUE PEACE CANNOT EXIST IN THIS CURSED WORLD.

SO LONG AS HUMANITY EXISTS, HATE WILL ALSO EXIST.

JUST BY LIVING, PEOPLE HURT OTHERS WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.

.....

LET'S HEAR YOUR RESPONSE.

.....

I'VE NOW TOLD YOU MY TALE...

!?

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ド根性忍伝

(TALES OF A GUTSY SHINOBI)

...I SEE.

...I MEAN, I KINDA THINK THE SAME AS YOU.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT...

BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THAT EVENTUALLY THE DAY WILL COME WHEN ALL PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND LIVE IN HARMONY!!

THEN YOU WANT TO SETTLE THINGS ...

AND YET I STILL CAN'T FORGIVE YOU...

I STILL HATE YOU.

I GET WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM NOW.

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PERVY SAGE BELIEVED IN ME, AND LEFT ME HIS QUEST...

!

?

BUT...

THAT'S MY ANSWER.

...SO I GOTTA... BELIEVE IN PERVY SAGE'S BELIEF!

...I'M NOT... GONNA KILL YOU.

AND THAT'S WHY...

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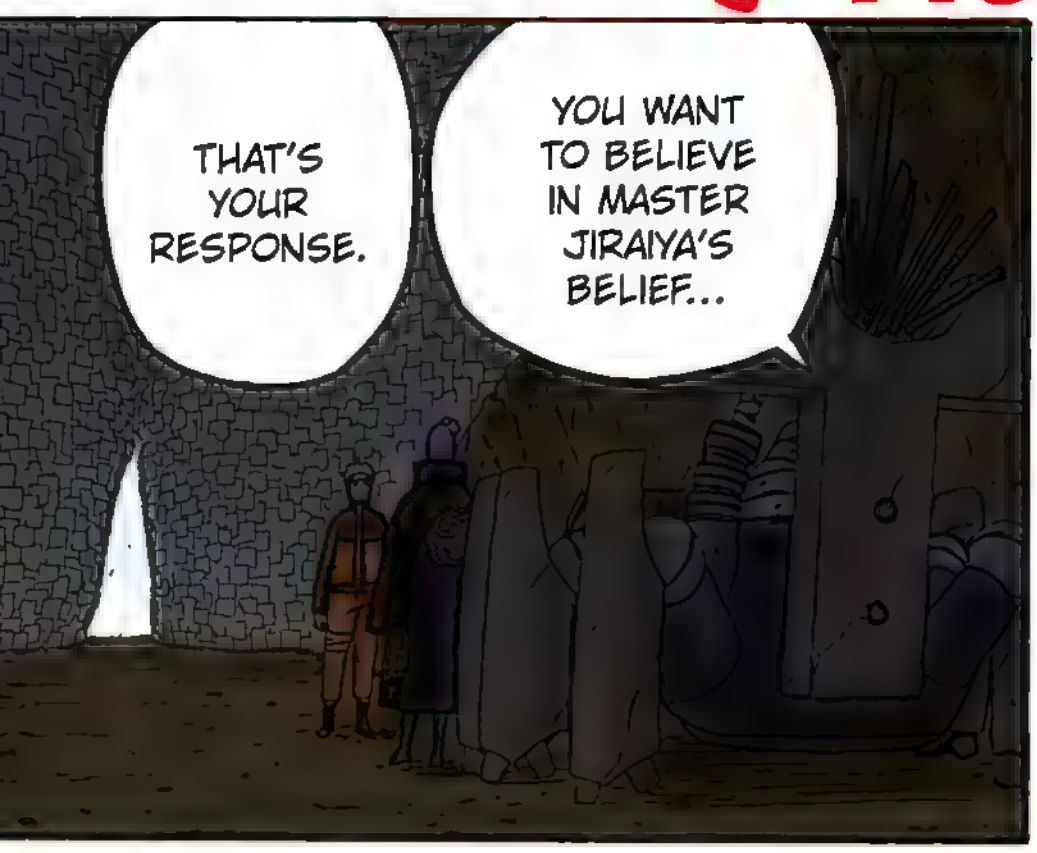
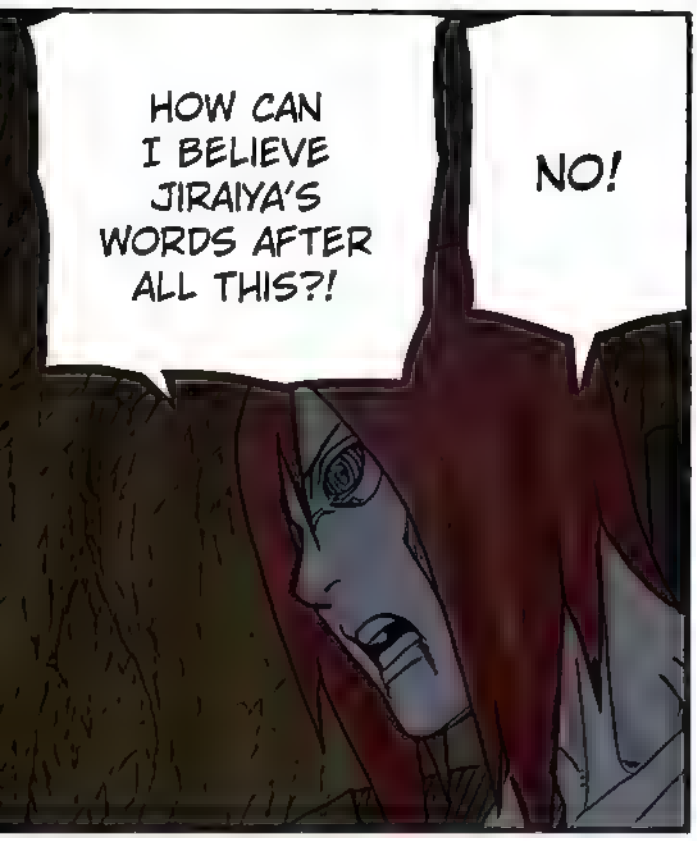
# 448: HEIRLOOM..!!

# 448：形見(かたみ)…!!





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IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS PEACE, I'LL FIND IT!

IN THAT CASE... I'LL BREAK THE CURSE.

I'M NOT GIVING UP!

NAGATO... WHAT'S THE MATTER?

?

... THAT'S...

YOU ...

.....

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THAT'S RIGHT...

...THEY'RE ALL FROM THIS BOOK.

THE VERY FIRST NOVEL PERVY SAGE WROTE.

...THOSE WORDS ...

.....

PERVY SAGE WAS SERIOUSLY TRYING TO CHANGE THE WORLD WITH THIS BOOK.

!

IT WAS YOU... NAGATO.

AND IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK, HE WROTE ABOUT THE DISCIPLE THAT HELPED PROVIDE HIM WITH INSPIRATION.

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...IS...

AND... THE NAME OF THIS BOOK'S MAIN CHARACTER...

BUT...

...COULD THIS JUST BE COINCI-DENCE?

モグモグ

WHAT'S UP?

?

MASTER ?

ガラガラ...

SO... WHAT'S GOING ON?

DO YOU... HAVE A MINUTE ?

SURE... I WAS TRYING TO WORK, BUT I'VE GOT WRITER'S BLOCK...

...I'M TAKING A BREAK AND EATING BEFORE PICKING IT BACK UP.

.....

...YES.

AND, HAVE YOU FIGURED ANYTHING OUT?

...THAT YOU MENTIONED BEFORE.

I'VE BEEN THINKING, MASTER, ABOUT THIS HATRED IN OUR WORLD...

BUT...

...PEACE ...

...I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE IT...

.....

IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS PEACE, I PROMISE TO FIND IT!

...I SWEAR TO BREAK THIS CURSE ONE DAY.

HUH... THAT'S AN EXCELLENT THOUGHT.

YOU MAY VERY WELL BE CORRECT.

WHAT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE METHODS THEMSELVES ...

...IS HAVING FAITH AND BELIEVING IN THEM!

WHAT IS IT?

AAH!

THANKS TO YOU, I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE A BRILLIANT BOOK!

!

...FIRST THINGS FIRST, I NEED TO CHOOSE A NAME FOR MY MAIN CHARAC-TER...

NOW!

LINH... MASTER

COME ON, STOP CRYING, YAHIKO. I'M SURE WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN SOMEDAY.

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ド根性忍伝

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パラパラ

ド根性忍伝

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?

SMOKE BOMBS!

!

ARGH!

I JUST HAVE ONE THING TO SAY

SUR-RENDER.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING IT... GIVE UP NOW!!

ドン

ボン

!?

GIVE UP...

!

...TRYING TO MAKE ME GIVE UP.

!

ドン

SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!

ボボ

ドサ

ガン

.....

AS LONG AS WE LIVE IN THIS CURSED SHINOBI WORLD... THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE...

HEH HEH HEH ...

UGH...

...E-EVEN IF YOU TAKE ME OUT, ANOTHER ASSASSIN WILL JUST COME TO ATTACK YOUR VILLAGE...

IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS PEACE, I'LL FIND IT!

I'M NOT GIVING UP

...I'LL BREAK THE CURSE.

IN THAT CASE ...

MY NAME IS...

WH-WHO ARE YOU ...?

.....

...
NARUTO
!!

I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP AND SULLY MY MASTER'S GIFT!

MY NAME IS A PRECIOUS HEIRLOOM FROM PERVY SAGE!

!

SO PLEASE **BELIEVE** IN ME!

I WILL BE HOKAGE!

AND I WILL BRING PEACE TO AMEGAKURE!

CAN YOU GUARAN-TEE IT?

CAN YOU YOURSELF TRUST IN THAT VOW?

DO YOU REALLY TRUST YOURSELF NOT TO CHANGE...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN BEFALLS YOU?

HOW CAN YOU VOW THAT YOU WILL NOT CHANGE?

WHY SHO-ULD I?

.....

.....

AND THE MAIN CHARACTER WOULDN'T BE NARUTO!

IT WOULD BECOME SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE BOOK OUR TEAC-HER LEFT BEHIND.

...IF THE MAIN CHARACTER WERE TO CHANGE, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY...

...I GOTTA KEEP WALKING ...

WHICH IS WHY NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS...

...ANY SEQUEL HAS TO COME FROM THE LIFE I LIVE...

I CAN'T WRITE NOVELS LIKE MASTER...

SO...

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BECAUSE THAT'S WHO NARUTO IS!

ナルト

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...I WISH YOU HAD MOVED PAST THE PAIN AND HARNESSED YOUR POWER TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN A POSITIVE WAY.

...RATHER THAN RULE THE WORLD THROUGH PAIN...

I JUST GET THE FEELING THAT THE SAGE'S HOPES WERE BESTOWED UPON YOUR EYES.

PERHAPS... YOU ARE A REINCARN-ATION OF THE SAGE.

.....

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONE...

FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...

AND THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO GUIDE THAT REVOLUTIONARY.

...WHO DECLARED THAT ONE OF MY DISCIPLES WOULD BRING ABOUT A GREAT CHANGE TO THE WORLD OF SHINOBI.

I THINK I SHALL ACCEPT THE PROPHECY OF THIS SAGE I KNOW...

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AND I ALSO BELIEVE IN YOU

I BELIEVE YOU ARE THAT REVOLUTIONARY.

ニヤッ

HEH HEH HEH ...

COLORED BY MANGACOMI

.....

.....

.....

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT ...

I KNOW YOU... CAN DO IT...

...YOU ARE... THE SAVIOR OF THIS WORLD...

...SO I GOTTA...

...BELIEVE IN PERVY SAGE'S BELIEF.

...IS HAVING FAITH AND BELIEVING ...!

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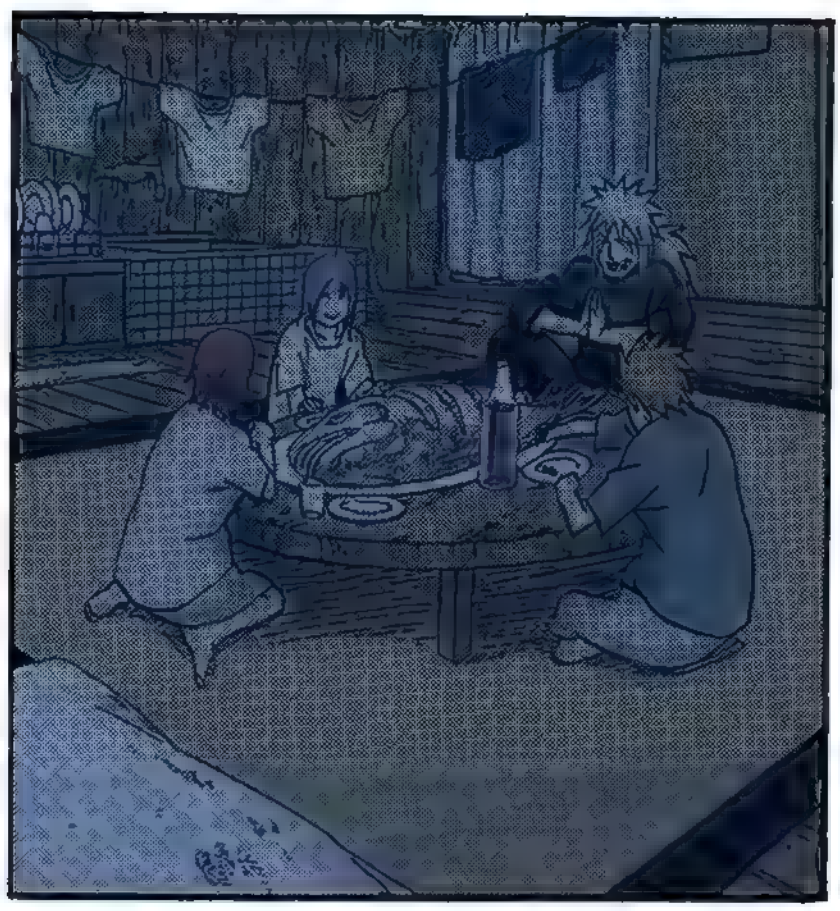
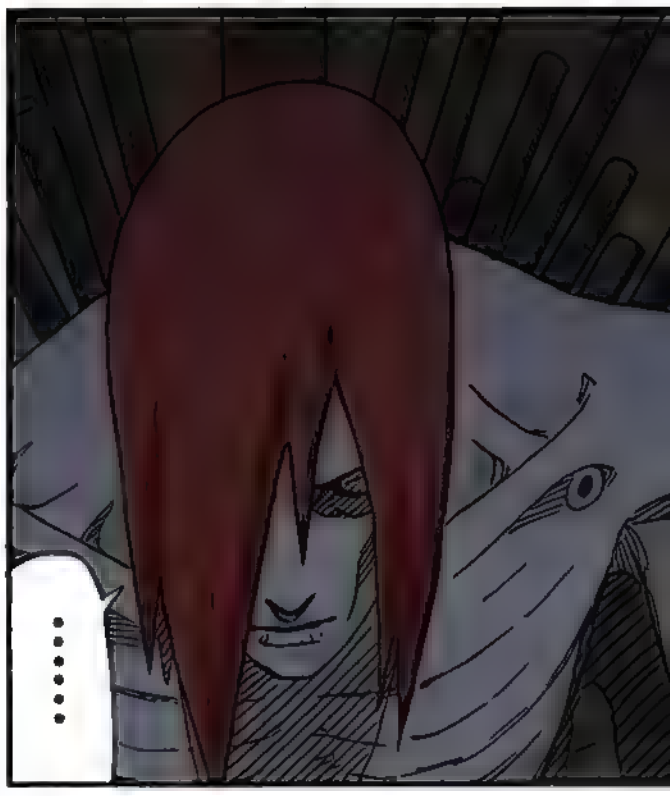


I SAID TO YOU EARLIER THAT WE ARE SIBLING DISCIPLES, YOU AND I...

...STUDENTS OF THE SAME SENSEI, WHO OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER



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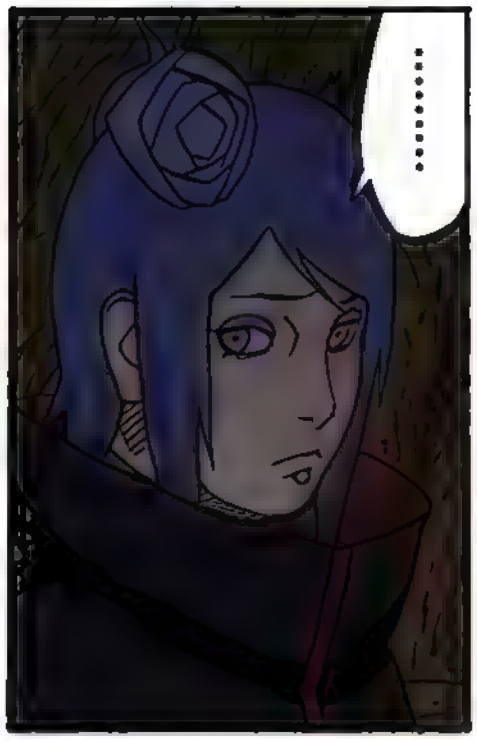
YOU ARE A CURIOUS FELLOW...

YOU REMIND ME OF MY YOUNGER SELF...



.....

I MEANT IT AS A JOKE...

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BUT... YOU GIVE ME A VISION OF A FUTURE THAT SHOWS A DIFFERENT PATH FROM THE ONE I'VE WALKED...

OR EVEN ...IN MYSELF

I WASN'T ABLE TO KEEP BELIEVING IN JIRAIYA.

NAGATO ...

スゥ…

!

...UZUMAKI NARUTO...

I THINK I SHALL... BELIEVE IN YOU...

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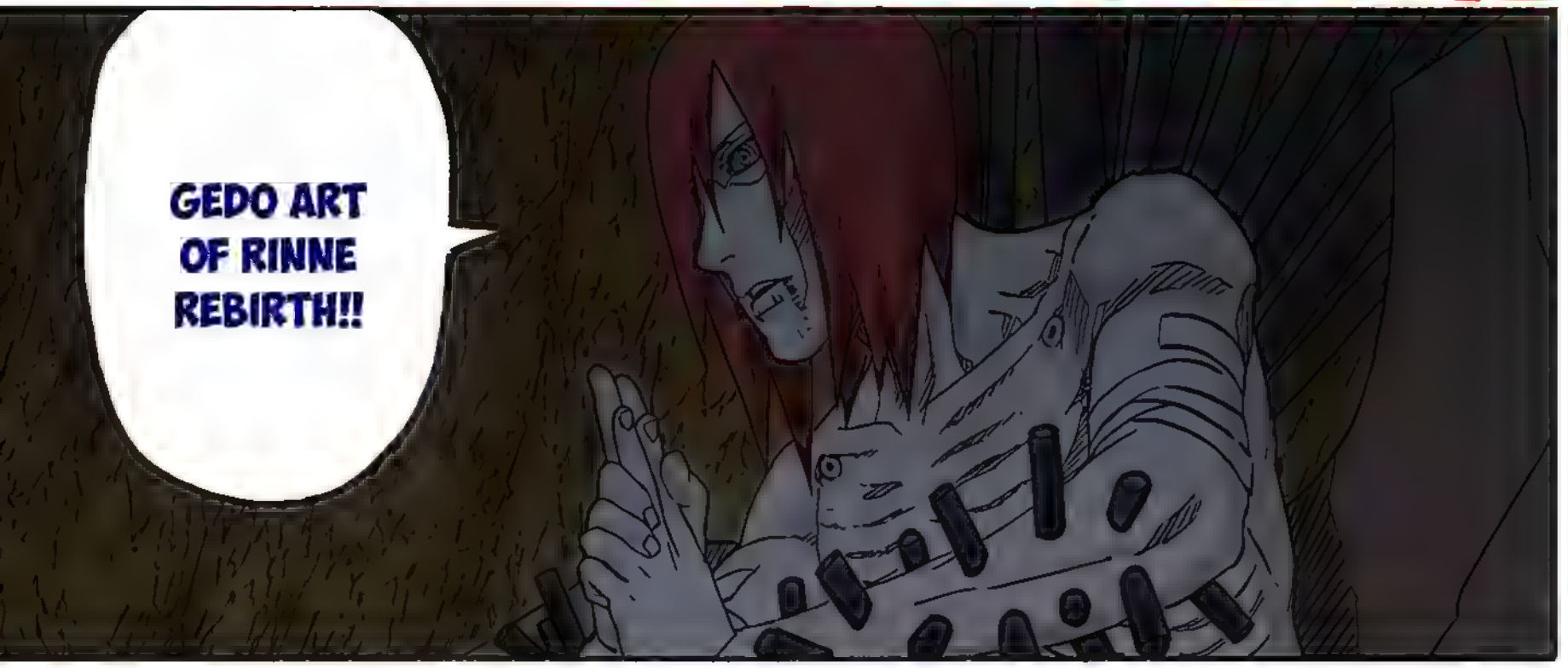
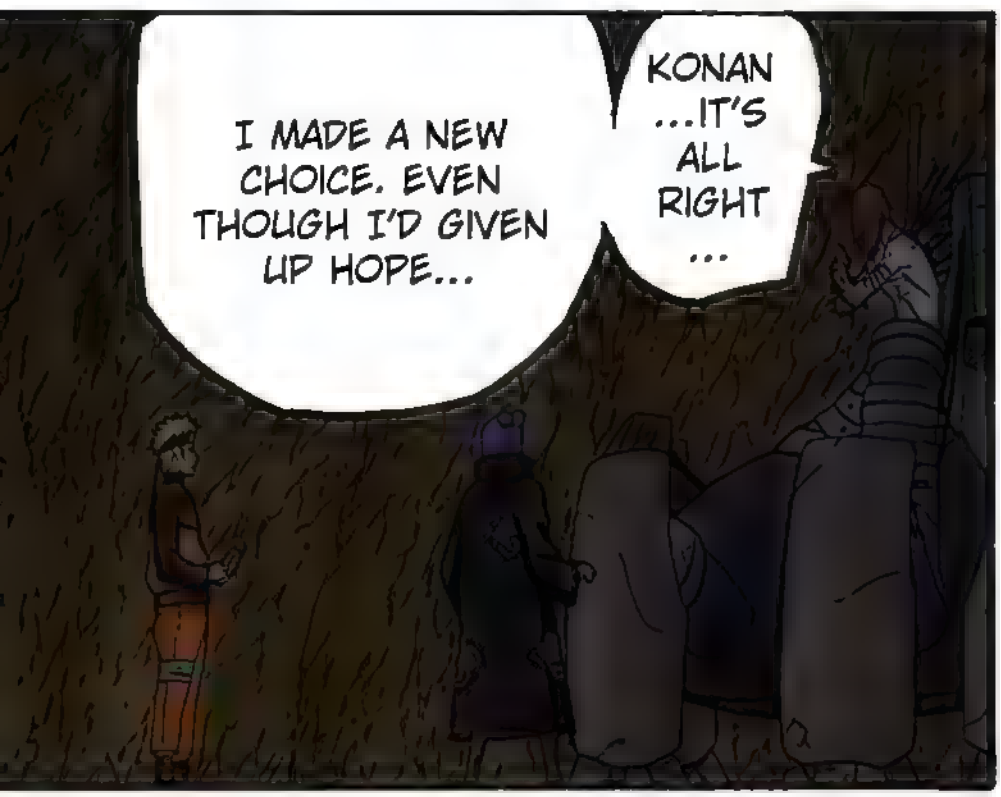
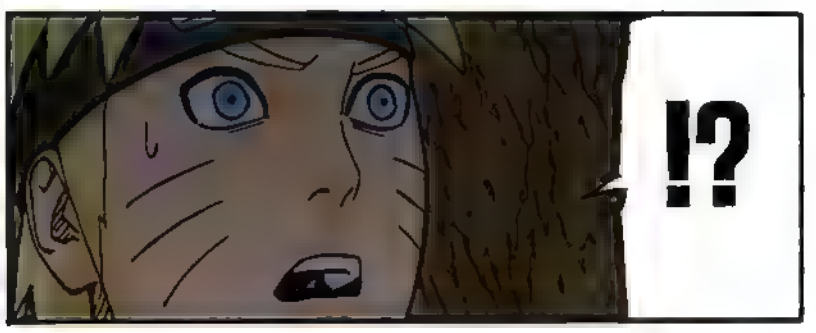
OLORED
ANGA.COM

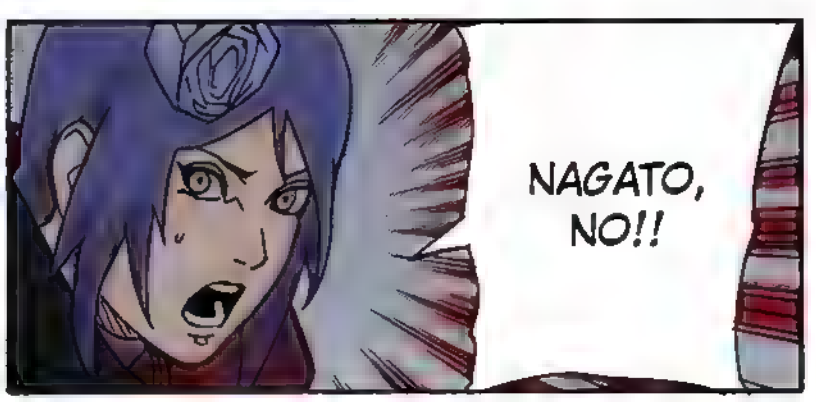
# 449: THE BLOSSOM OF HOPE

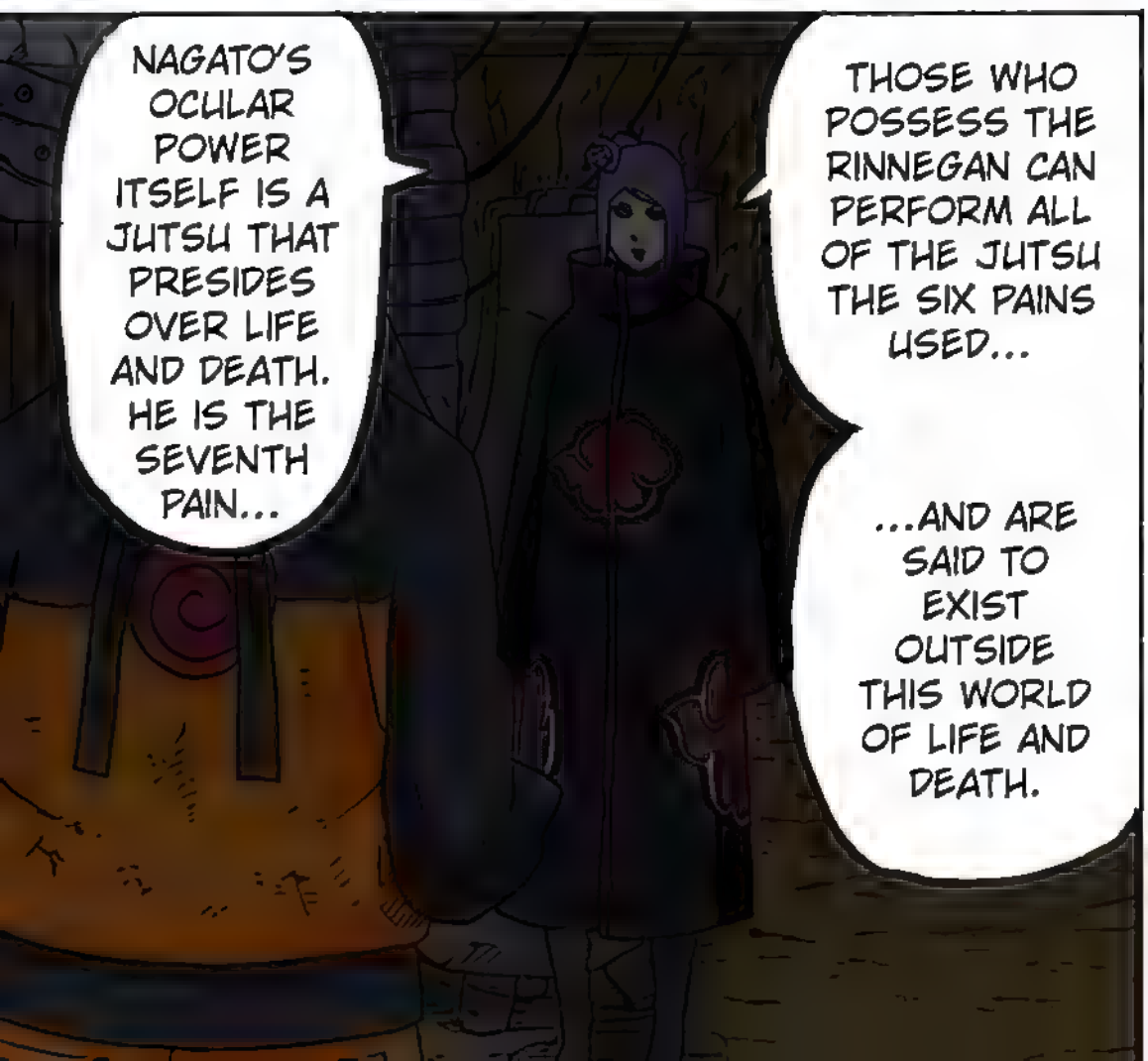
# ナンバー 449：希望の花

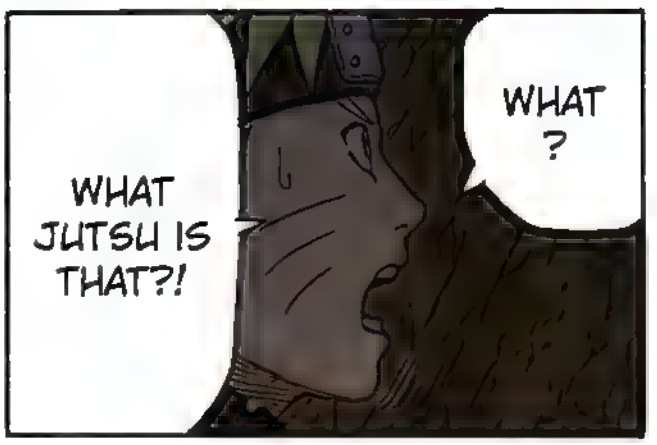




NAGATO'S OCULAR POWER ITSELF IS A JUTSU THAT PRESIDES OVER LIFE AND DEATH. HE IS THE SEVENTH PAIN...
THOSE WHO POSSESS THE RINNEGAN CAN PERFORM ALL OF THE JUTSU THE SIX PAINS USED...
...AND ARE SAID TO EXIST OUTSIDE THIS WORLD OF LIFE AND DEATH.



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.....

...HE WANTS TO HELP THIS CHILD THAT BADLY...

IF HE PERFORMS THE JUTSU AT HIS CURRENT CHAKRA LEVEL... NAGATO WILL NOT SURVIVE...

.....

...GEDO.

THIS MYSTERIOUS CHILD HAS CHANGED NAGATO...

十七

COLORED MANGA.COM

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ズオオオ

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ドクン

ドクン

WHAT?!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

WHOA!

WAAAAAH!!

...MA...?

...WHERE?

!!?

ヒィ?!

?

N-NO WAY... H-HOW CAN THIS BE...?

ガラガラ

UNH...

WHAT IS THIS... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I KNOW LORD FUKASAKU WAS DEAD!

...WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

HUH?

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

SEEMS NARUTO'S SETTLED THINGS.

WHAT ...?!

ALTHOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT TWO OF JIRAIYA'S DISCIPLES WOULD BOTH TURN OUT TO BE CHILDREN OF PROPHECY...

...AND BOTH BECOME LEADERS OF A SHINOBI REFORMATION

IT IS AS MY VISION FORETOLD ...

AND HOW DID IT TURN OUT, PRAY TELL?!

IT APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED...

COLORED MANGA.COM

...WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THAT BOOK WOULD REALLY BECOME THE KEY TO CHANGING THE WORLD...

...IN THAT MOMENT WHEN JIRAIYA CHOSE NOT TO GIVE UP...

PER-HAPS ...

...ALL THIS BECAME PREORDAINED.

YEAH ...

I SEE...

SEEMS YOU HAD YOUR FAIR SHARE OF TROUBLE TOO, EH...

NO!

NO!

...THOUGH NOT AS EARLY AS YOUR MOTHER...

.....

HOW-EVER ...

...WHAT A SHAME THAT BOTH YOU AND I WOULD DIE SUCH EARLY DEATHS

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NO MATTER WHAT THE END RESULT WAS, FATHER, YOU DID YOUR BEST.

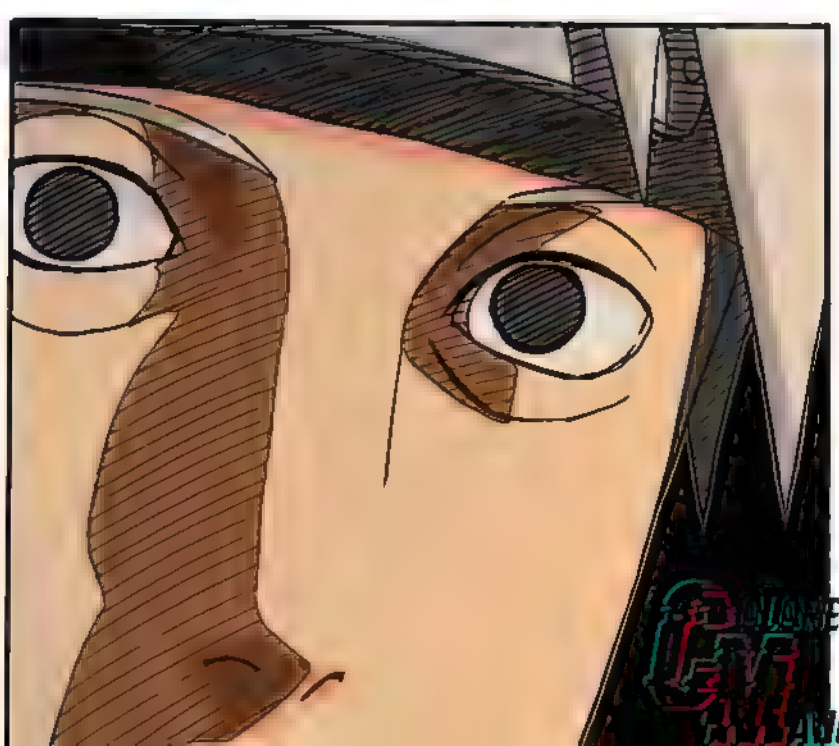
.....

I'M PROUD TO BE YOUR SON, NOW.

YOU, WHO VIOLATED ALL RULES IN ORDER TO SAVE EVERYONE...

I CAN SEE THAT NOW AND UNDER-STAND YOU...

.....



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!

THANK YOU...

WHAT'S HE DOING?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

!?

YOU MEAN ...?!

MORE AND MORE VILLAGERS ARE COMING BACK TO LIFE.

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THINK OF IT AS REPARA-TION.

I'M STILL IN TIME TO AT LEAST REVIVE THOSE I'VE KILLED SINCE I ARRIVED IN KONOHA.

THINK OF IT AS REPARA-TION.

I'LL STAY HERE AWHILE AND LOOK AFTER THEM. ONLY UNTIL THEY CAN BETTER TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

ア…

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU'RE STILL MEANT TO DO.

SEEMS IT WAS TOO SOON FOR YOU TO COME HERE.

WHAT'S THIS?

AND FINALLY SEE YOUR MOTHER...

THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING ME...

...NOW I CAN MOVE ON IN PEACE.

I'M GLAD I GOT TO TALK TO YOU.

FATH-ER...

スナ…!

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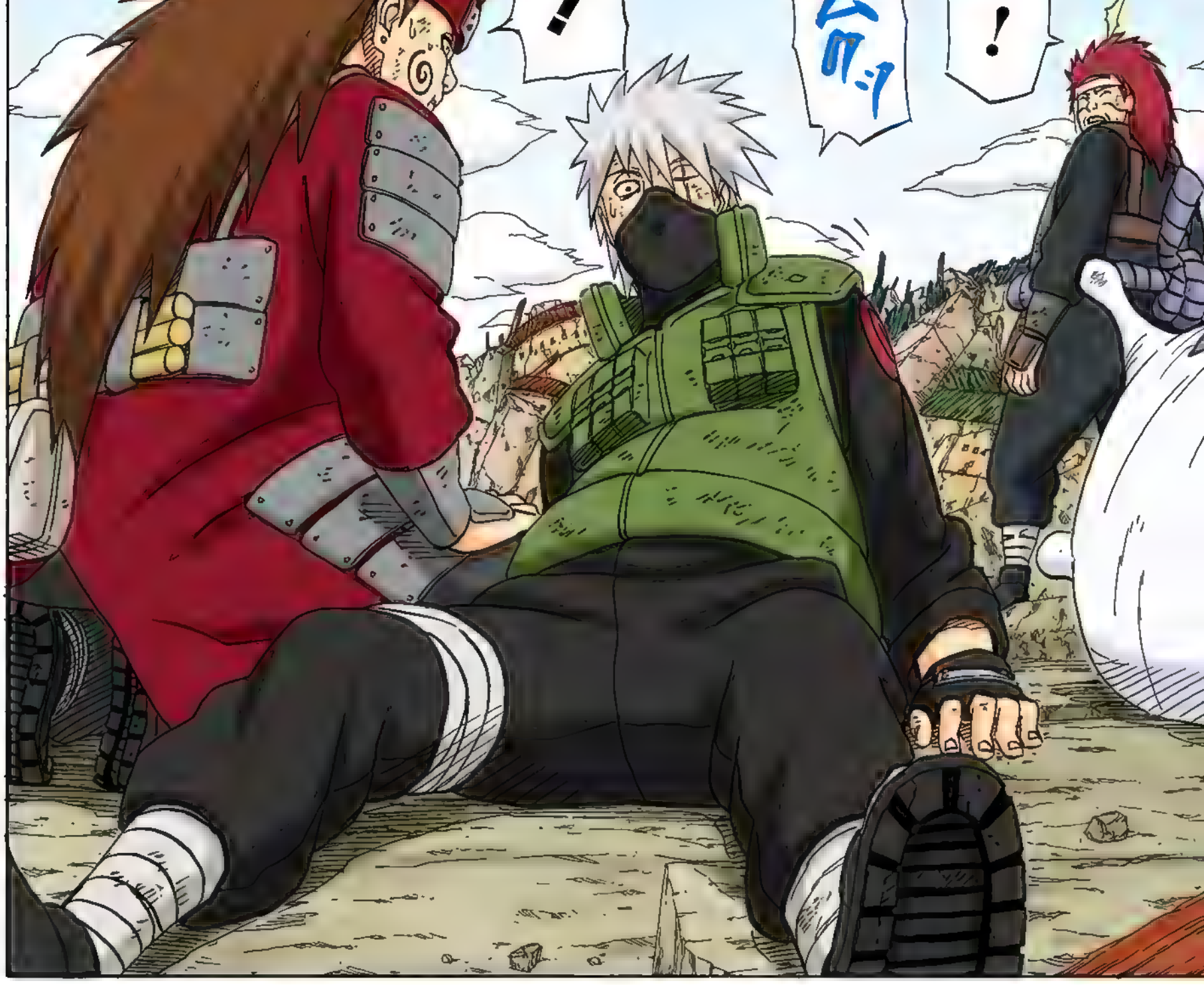


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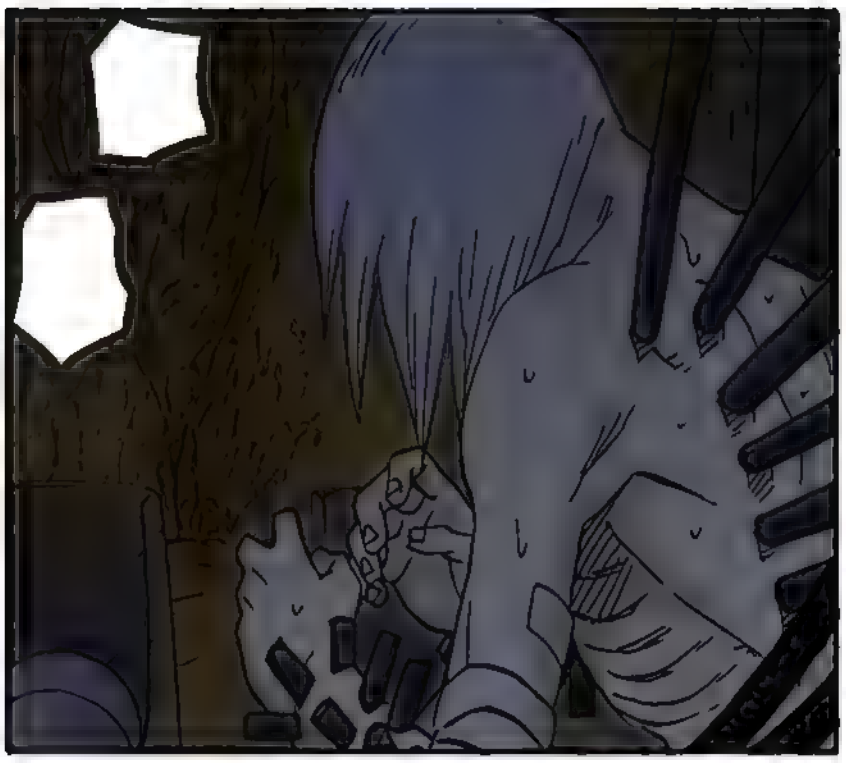
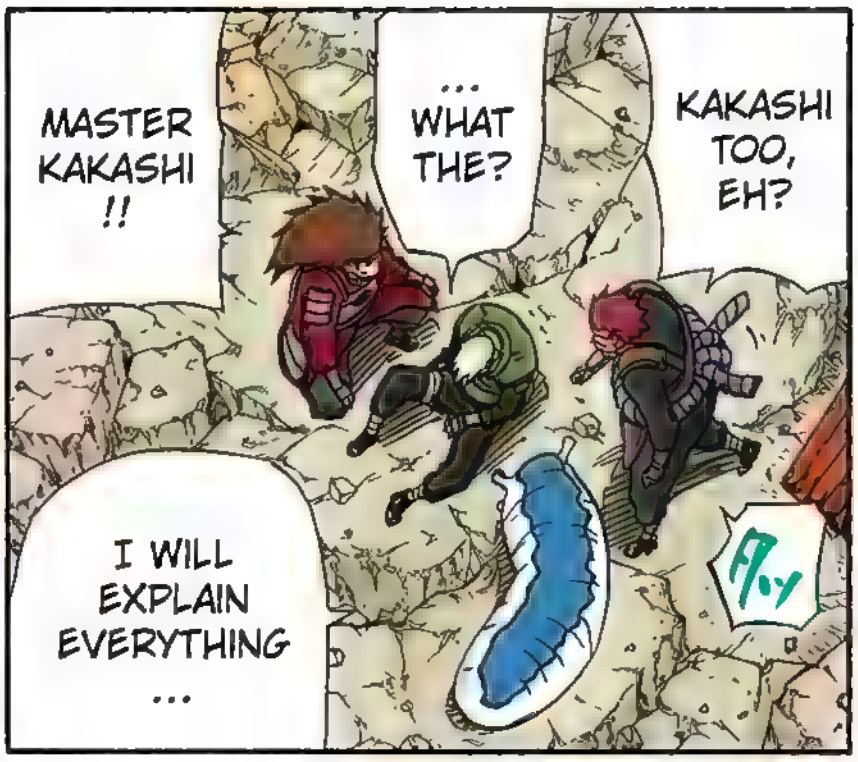
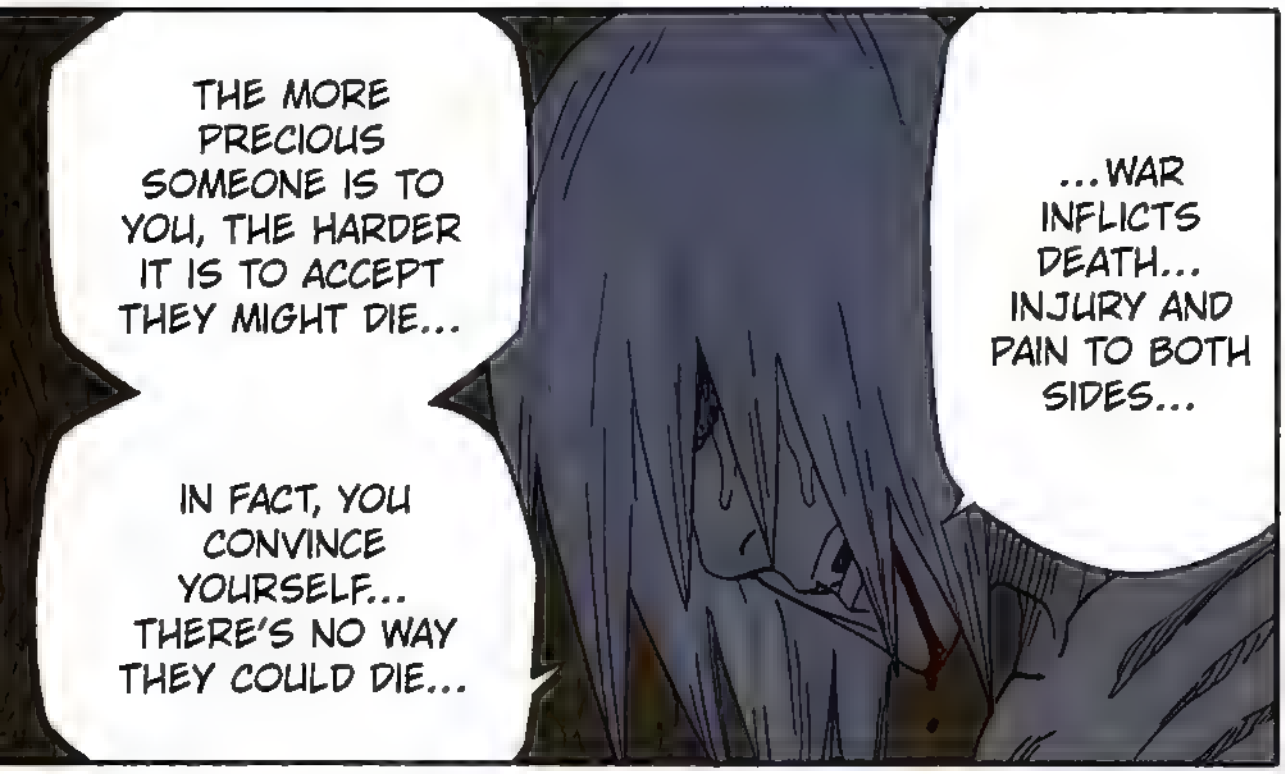
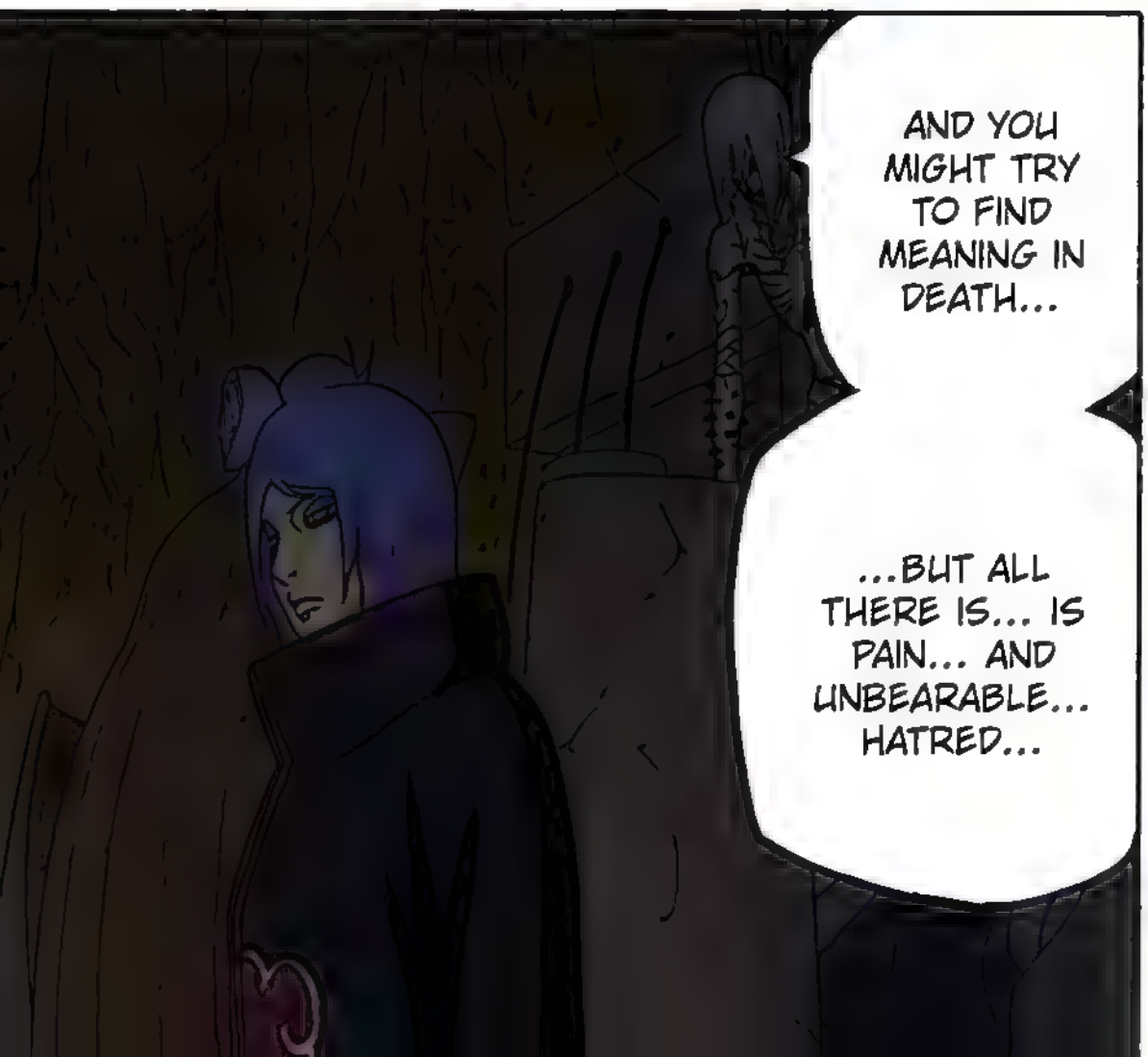






THE MORE PRECIOUS SOMEONE IS TO YOU, THE HARDER IT IS TO ACCEPT THEY MIGHT DIE...
IN FACT, YOU CONVINCE YOURSELF... THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD DIE...
...WAR INFLICTS DEATH... INJURY AND PAIN TO BOTH SIDES...



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THAT'S... WHAT WAR IS...

WASTEFUL DEATH... ETERNAL HATRED... AND PAIN THAT DOES NOT HEAL...

...IT FEELS LIKE... SOMEONE... SET IT ALL UP...

WITH REGARD TO THAT BOOK... AND YOU...

HEH

AND... THOSE ARE THE THINGS... YOU WILL FACE IN THE COMING DAYS... NARUTO...

...THIS WAS THE DOING OF AN ACTUAL GOD...

OR... PERHAPS ...

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NARUTO... I BELIEVE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE... CAN...

SEEMS HIS IS IT FOR ME...

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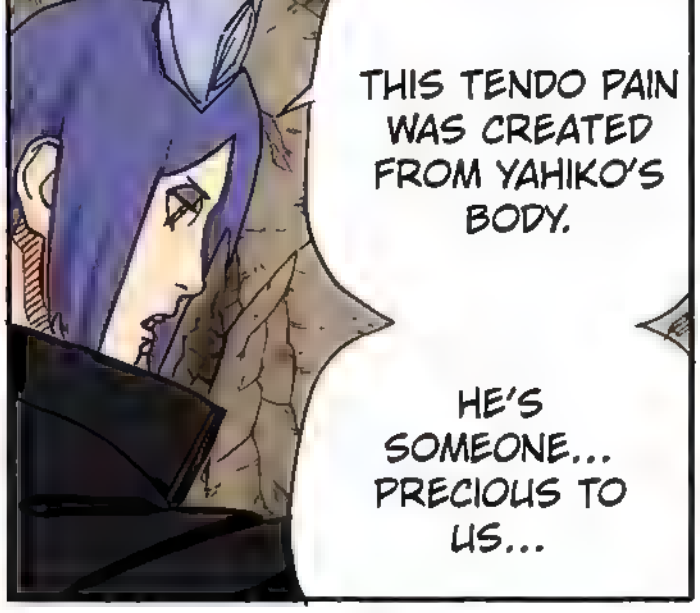
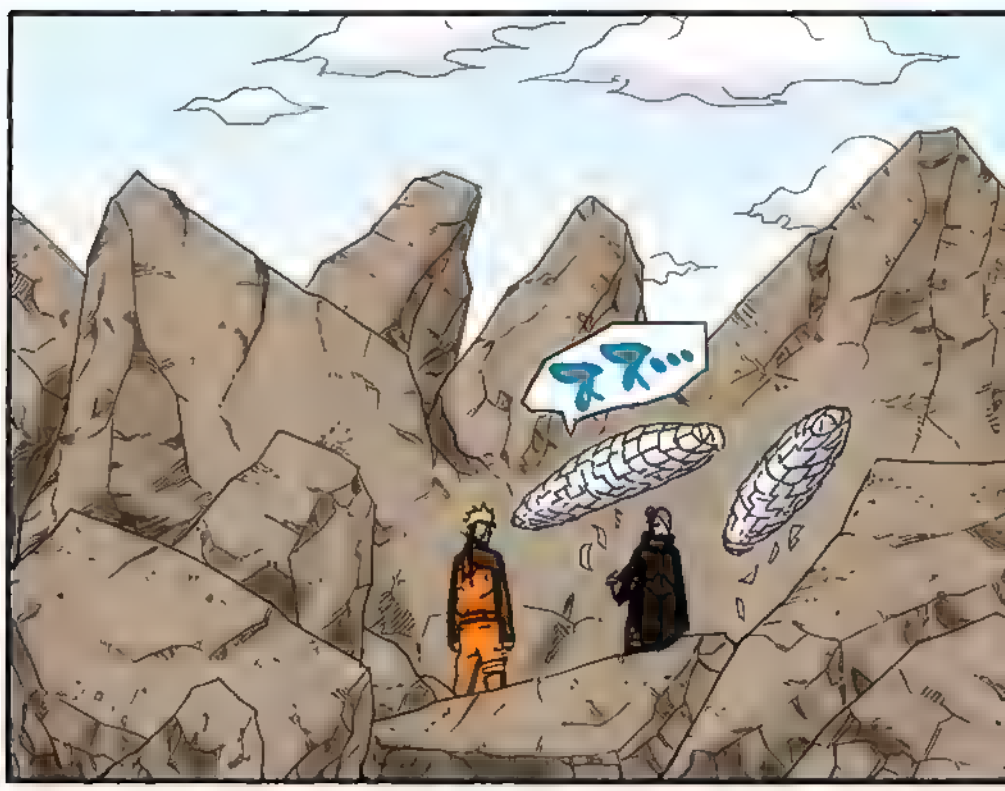


I'M LEAVING THE AKAT-SUKI.
YAHIKO AND NAGATO WERE EVERYTHING TO ME.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
I'D HATE TO THINK YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THE AKATSUKI

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WE OF AMEGAKURE SHALL CHASE THEIR DREAMS TOGETHER WITH YOU.

BECAUSE NAGATO WAS WILLING TO BELIEVE IN YOU, I WILL BELIEVE IN YOU AS WELL.

YAHIKO'S DREAM... AND THEN NAGATO'S DREAM...

SINCE BOTH OF THEIR DREAMS HAVE BEEN PASSED ON TO YOU, YOU NOW EMBODY THEIR DREAMS.

WELL THEN, IF I CAN'T FIND THE SOLUTION MYSELF, SHALL I PASS THE QUEST ON TO YOU?

.....

...AND PAIN...

THE NAME NARUTO, THE GUTS TO NEVER GIVE UP...

...UZUMAKI NARUTO...

I THINK I SHALL... BELIEVE IN YOU...

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...THOSE ARE THE THINGS I'VE INHERITED FROM MY TEACHER AND MY BROTHER-IN-TRAINING!!

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.....

...I PRAY THAT YOU WILL BE THE BLOSSOM OF HOPE THAT NEVER WILTS.

THIS TIME ...

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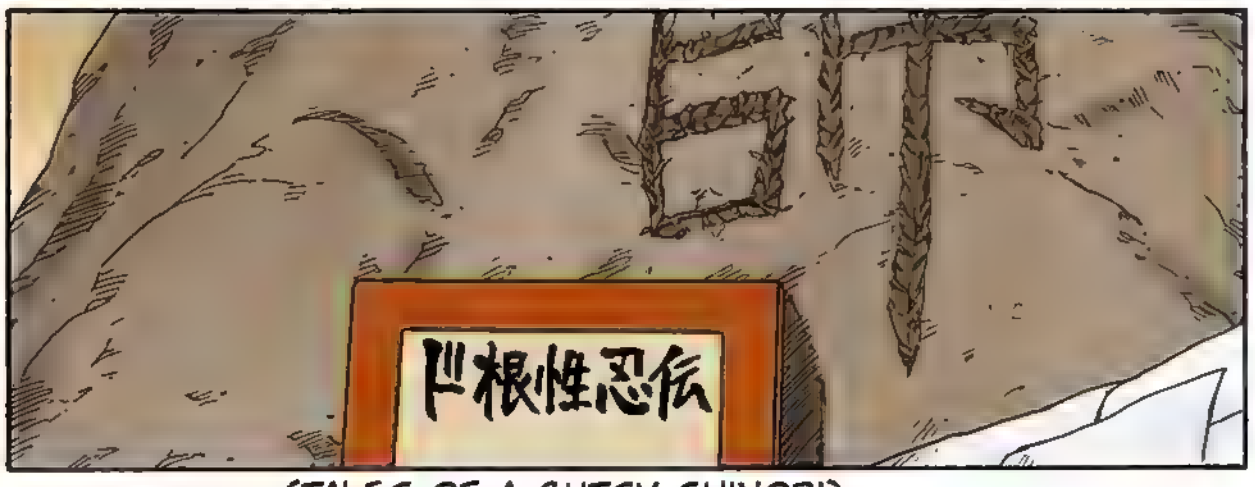
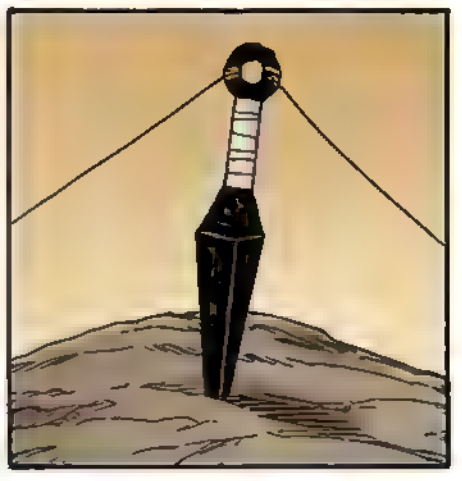
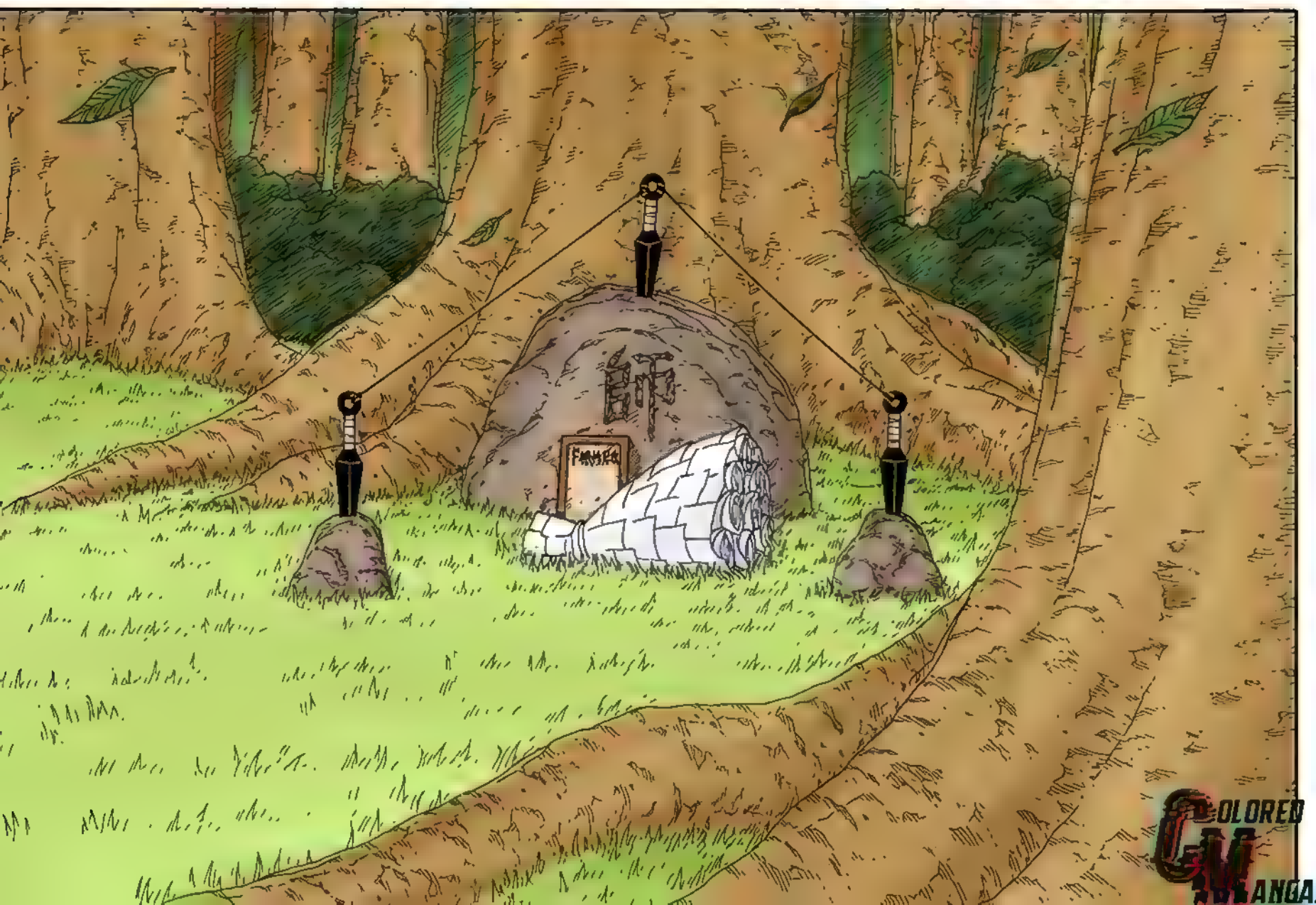


(TALES OF A GUTSY SHINOBI)

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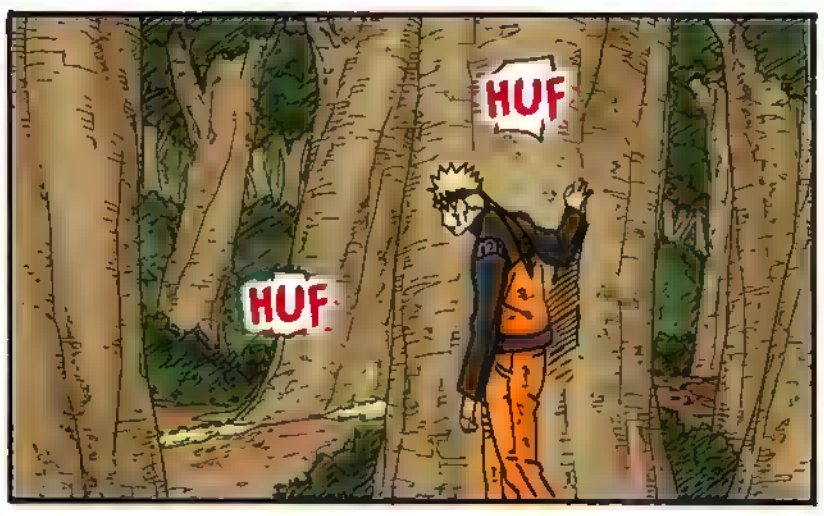
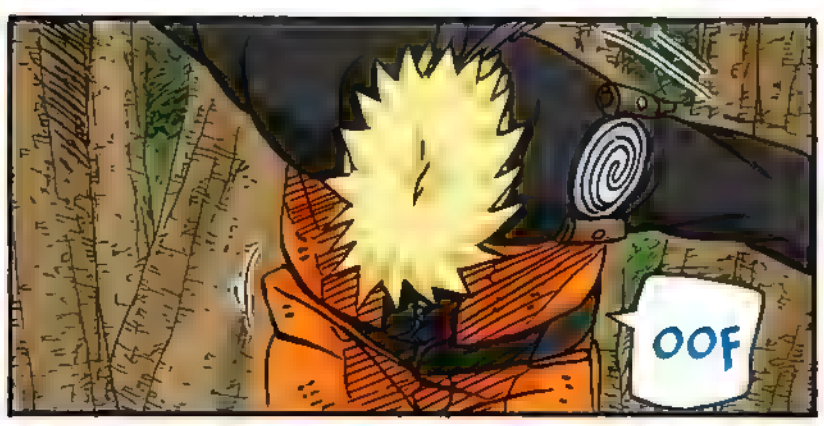
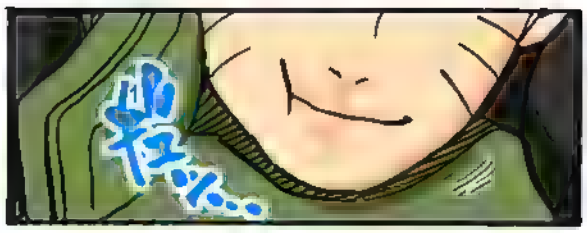
# 450: THE CHEERING VILLAGE!!

# ナンバー 450：歓呼の里!!





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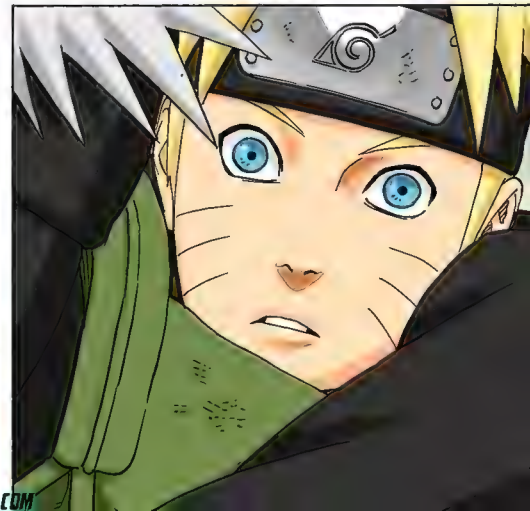
WELCOME HOME!!
THANKS
YOU'RE A HERO, NARUTO!
WE KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
GLAD YOU MADE IT BACK!

NARUTO ...

MY DREAM IS TO ONE DAY...
...BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!! AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!!

THEY'VE ALL... BEEN AWAITING YOUR RETURN.



NARUTO!

WELCOME HOME!

...YOU DID WELL.

ARE YOU HURT?

WHOA!

WHAT WAS THE ENEMY LIKE?!

I HAVE ALREADY RELAYED EVERYTHING THAT TRANSPIRED TO THE OTHERS.

OW! DON'T PUSH!

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SAKURA ...

!

...NA-RUTO.

I'M SO GLAD...

HOW DARE YOU TAKE SUCH RISKS, YOU IDIOT!

OW!

...THANK YOU.

.....

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THE VILLAGERS SHUN HIM BECAUSE OF THE NINE TAILS INCIDENT.

I DO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE BOY... BUT JUST LIKE YOU, HE HAS GROWN UP WITHOUT KNOWING PARENTAL LOVE...

YES, LORD HOKAGE?

IRUKA ...

HE JUST WANTS HIS EXISTENCE TO BE ACKNOWLED GED NO MATTER WHAT FORM IT TAKES.

THAT'S WHY HE FEELS MISCHIEF IS THE ONLY WAY TO DRAW PEOPLE'S ATTENTION.

...LORD THIRD... LORD FOURTH ...

...HE SEALED NINE TAILS WITHIN THE BOY AND DIED, SINCERELY WISHING THAT.

...LORD FOURTH WANTED THE VILLAGERS TO SEE NARUTO AS A HERO.

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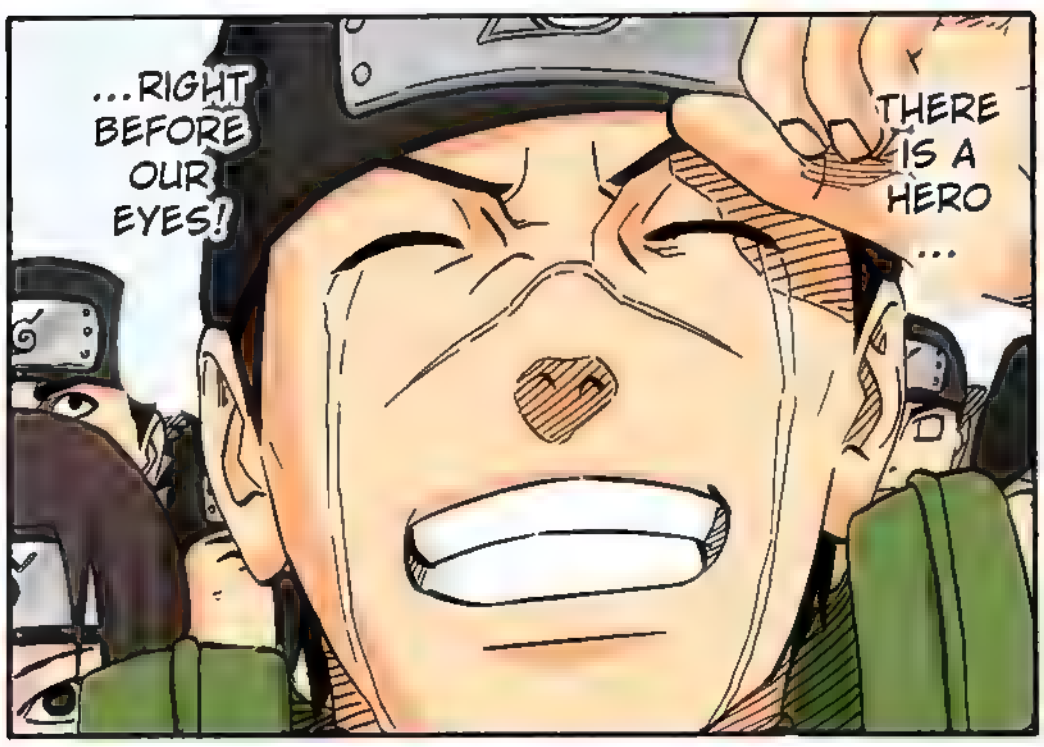


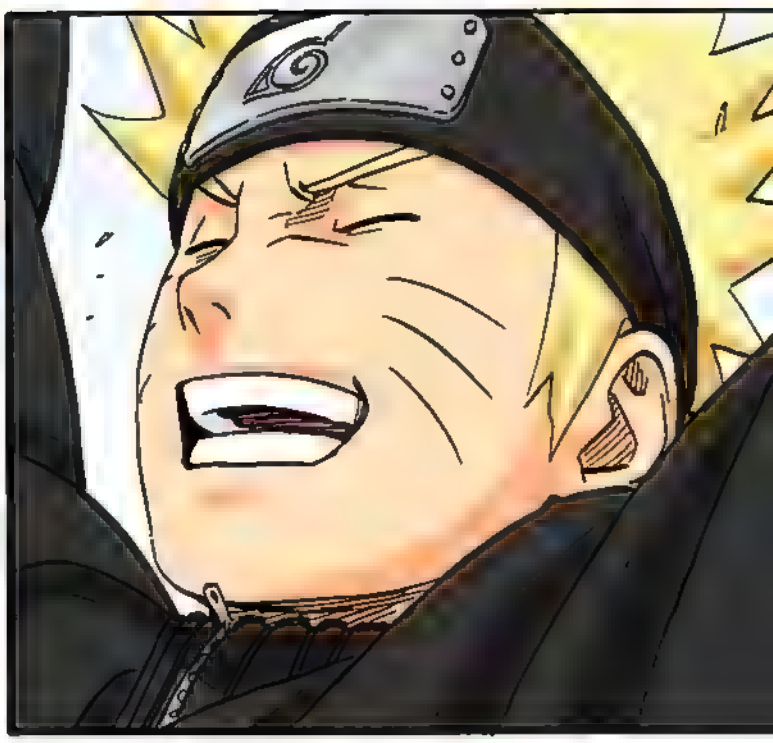

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HUH... YOU'RE ALL HEALED UP?

GET READY.

...WE'RE HEADING OUT TO KONOHA.

YEAH ...

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I NEVER IMAGINED PAIN WOULD BE TAKEN DOWN.

WE GOTTA TELL TOBI... LET'S GO.

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ｽﾂ....

AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL HAS BEEN CALLED.

AS JONIN SQUAD LEADER, YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED AT THE PALACE OF LORDS, LORD SHIKAKU.

WHAT IS IT?

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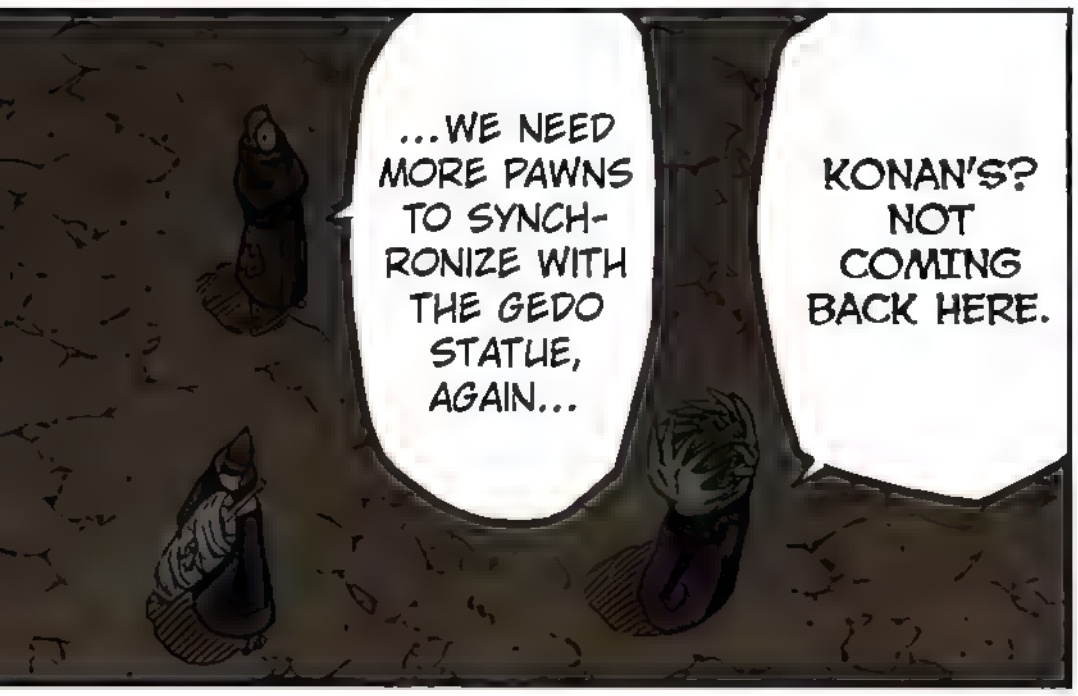

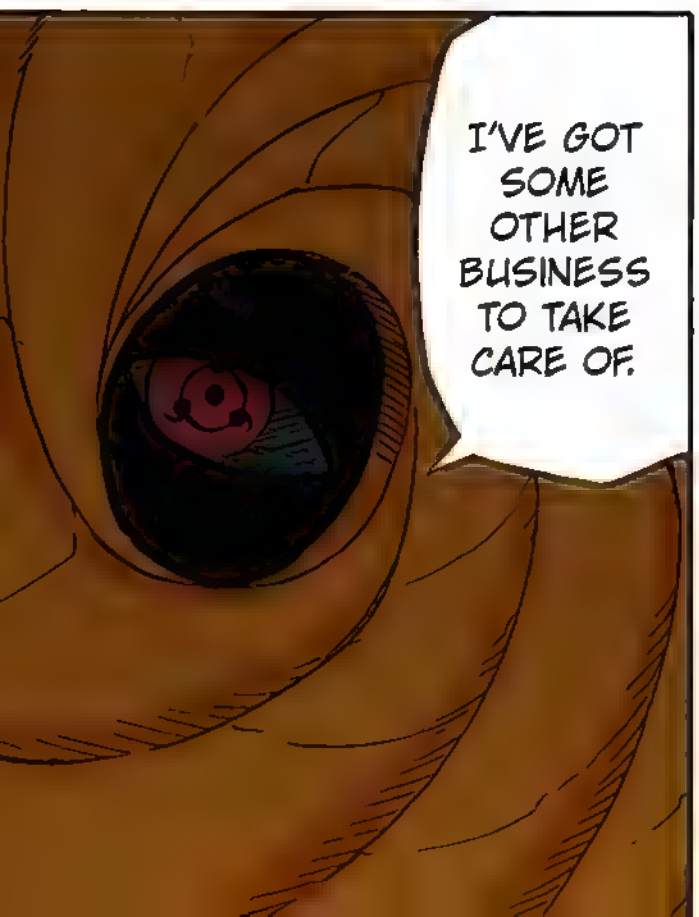

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...WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THEY ALL TOTALLY COME AFTER ME?

NAH... I WAS JUST THINKING, WHAT IF THERE WERE A TON OF REALLY PRETTY GIRLS IN THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA...

...EH?!

SIGH... WHAT TO...

GROSS! SO DO YOU WANT TO FIND YOURSELF DROWNING IN GIRLS OR NOT, WHICH IS IT?!

I'M SCARED THEY WON'T LET ME GO!

BUT THEN, WHEN WE HAVE TO LEAVE KONOHA, WHAT IF THEY TELL ME THEY LOVE ME AND CAN'T BEAR TO BE SEPARATED, WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN...?

WE HAVEN'T EVEN ARRIVED IN KONOHA YET!

WHY NOT JUST DATE ALL OF THEM SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A LADIES' MAN?!

OH, YEAH... SUUUUURE!

...LEFT AND RIGHT, UP AND DOWN!

...WHY WOULDN'T A STUDLY, RICH, TALL CELEBRITY NINJA BE TAKEN WITH ME?!

WELL... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

JUST PLAIN STUDLY WOULD BE FINE!

YA KNOW, KARUI, YOU JUST MIGHT FIND YOURSELF WITH A SUPER-STUDLY GUY INSTEAD.

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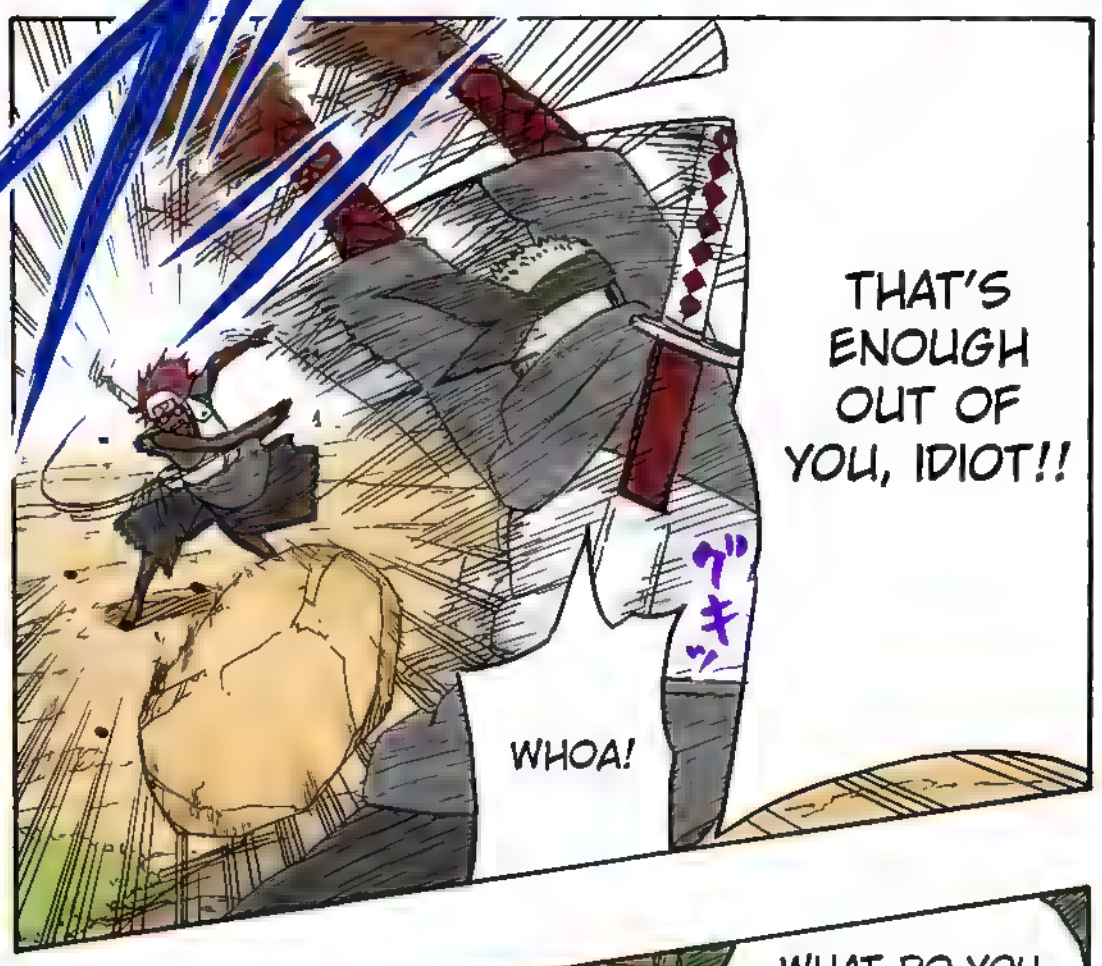

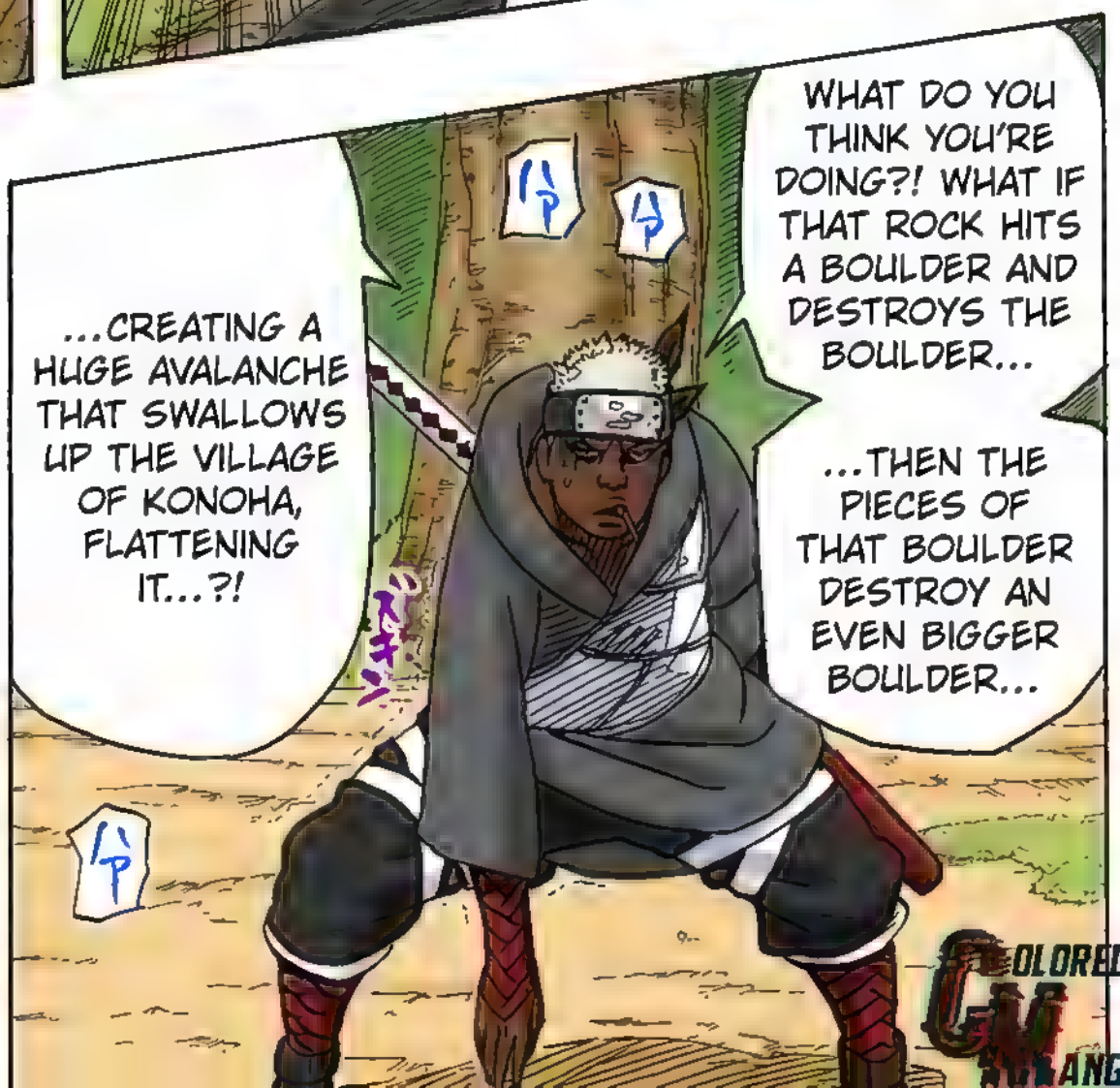
...CREATING A HUGE AVALANCHE THAT SWALLOWS UP THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA, FLATTENING IT...?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! WHAT IF THAT ROCK HITS A BOULDER AND DESTROYS THE BOULDER...
...THEN THE PIECES OF THAT BOULDER DESTROY AN EVEN BIGGER BOULDER...

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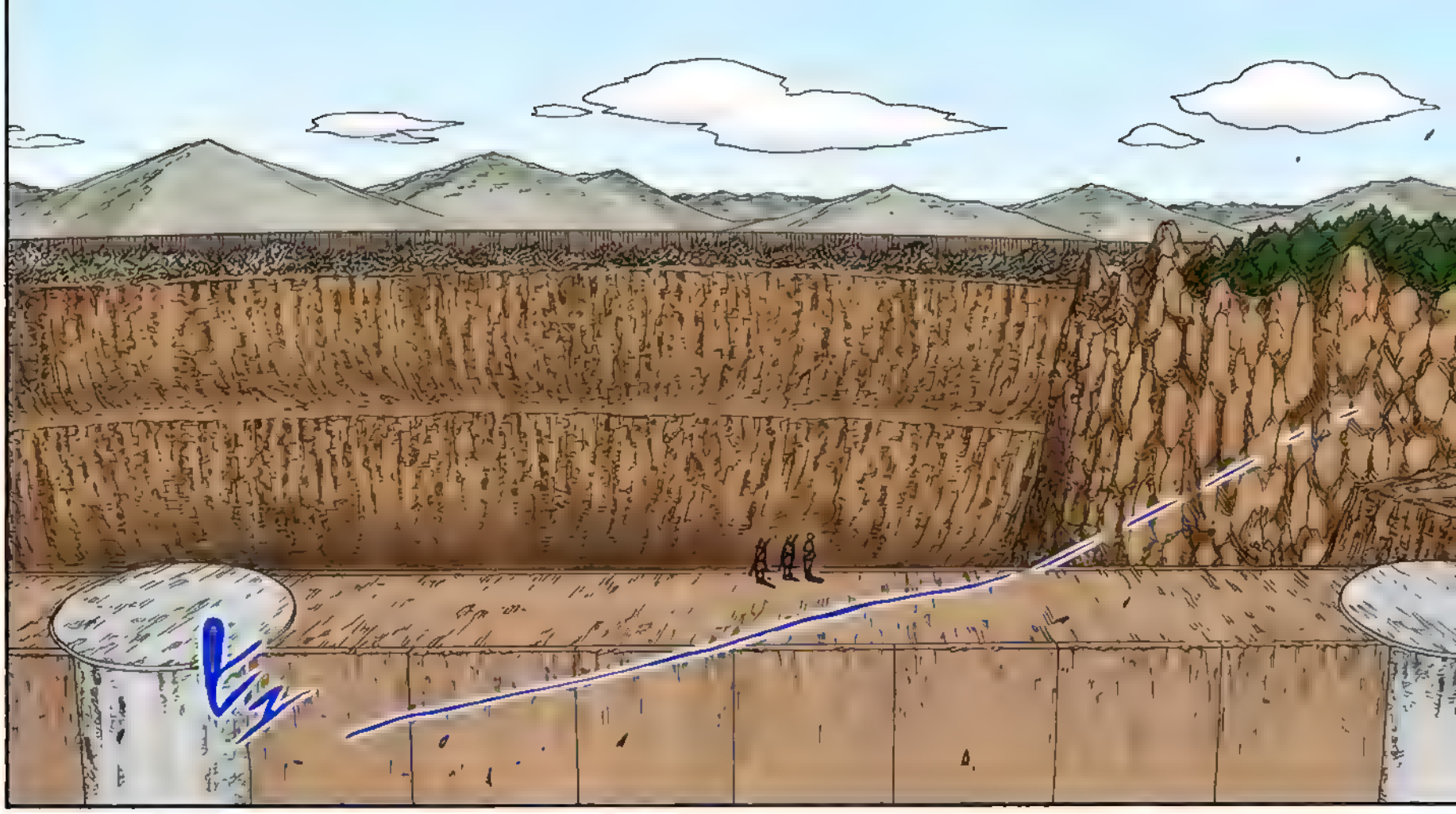
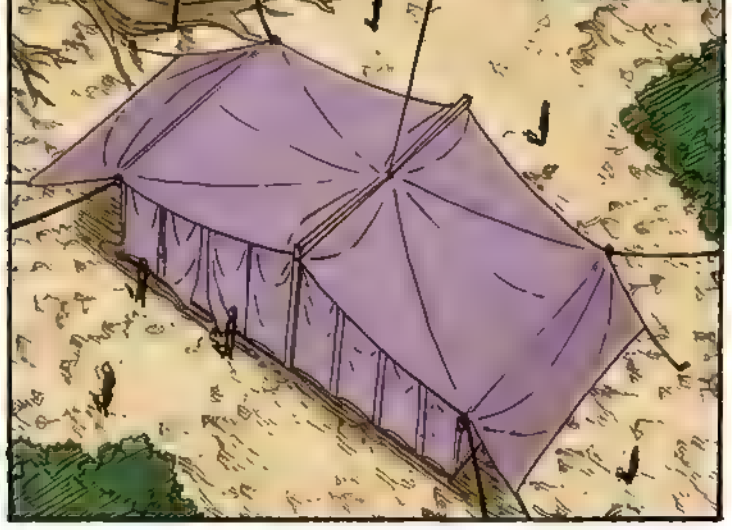
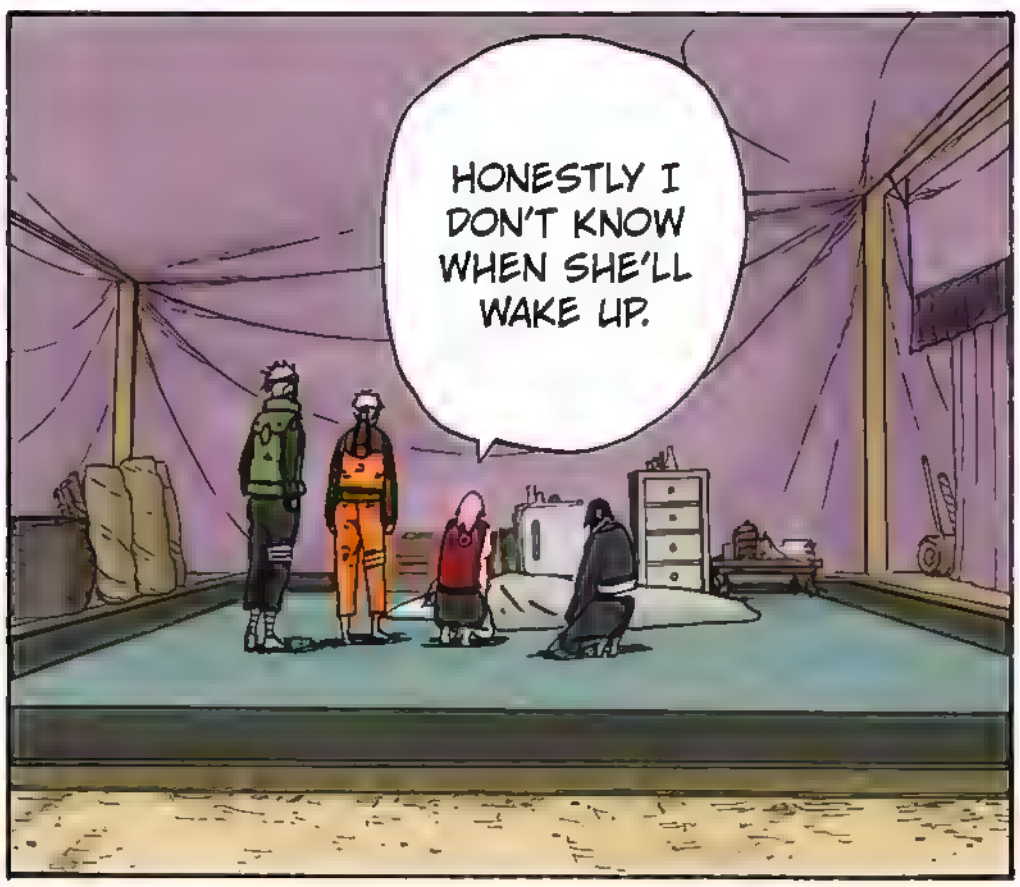
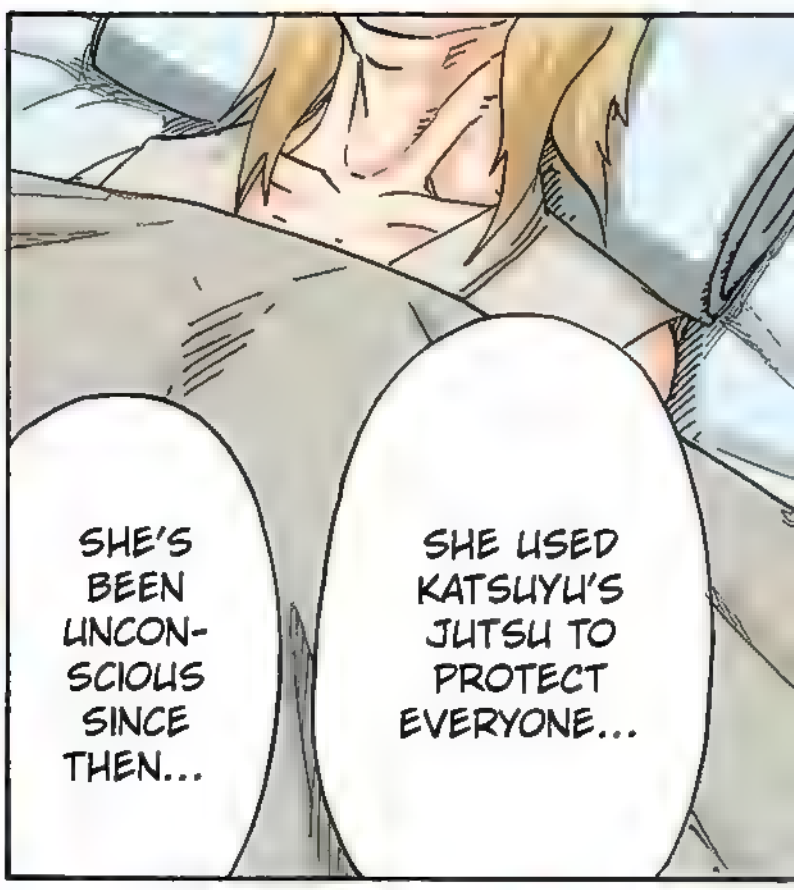




THERE'S NO WAY. C'MON, LET'S GO FIND SOMEBODY.
K-KARUI ... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...
NO WAY!! BUT IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT LITTLE ROCK WOULD...!

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GRANNY
...

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FIRST, WE'LL RAISE FUNDS... THEN ASSESS THE STRAIN WITH OTHER LANDS...

WITH THE VILLAGE SO DECIMATED ...

WE OF THE LAND OF FIRE SHALL ALSO PROVIDE OUR FULL SUPPORT IN REBUILDING THE VILLAGE.

WE INTEND TO CONTINUE PURSUING THE AKATSUKI WITH ASSISTANCE FROM OUR ALLIES.

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HERE IT COMES... I KNEW IT.

THERE IS A MORE PRESSING MATTER AT HAND.

THE SELECTION OF A NEW HOKAGE.

WITH THE VILLAGE DECIMATED AND NO ESTIMATE ON WHEN SHE WILL REAWAKE, WE ARE UNABLE TO STEER THE VILLAGE FORWARD AS IT STANDS...

...PLUS, SHE IS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING KONOHA TO BE DESTROYED.

LORD DAIMYO ...

...TSUNADE REMAINS IN A COMATOSE STATE.

CAN WE NOT WAIT FOR TSUNADE TO RECOVER?

IN THAT CASE, I...

...SO WHO ELSE IS THERE?

...I LIKED HIM VERY MUCH, BUT HE IS NO LONGER AMONG US.

I HAD REALLY HOPED JIRAIYA WOULD FOLLOW NEXT...

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!

I NOMINATE HATAKE KAKASHI!

I BELIEVE FOURTH HOKAGE MINATO WAS EVEN YOUNGER...

BUT PERHAPS A BIT TOO YOUNG?

FOR SURE... HE'S WELL KNOWN, POWERFUL AND VIRTUOUS...

YES! THAT SOUNDS MIGHTY FINE.

HO, THE SON OF THE WHITE FANG, EH.

YOU ALL?

NO PROBLEMS THERE. WELL THEN...

AND THE FOURTH HOKAGE WAS JIRAIYA'S DISCIPLE, AND JIRAIYA, THE THIRD HOKAGE'S DISCIPLE!

THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S.

WHOSE DISCIPLE WAS HATAKE KAKASHI?

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AND IT WAS THE THIRD'S TEACHINGS ...

...THAT LED TO THIS CURRENT CRISIS!!

THEY'RE TOO SOFT! IN EVERY ASPECT!!

THE RESULT OF JIRAIYA SYMPATHIZING WITH OTHER LANDS AND LENDING THEM BATTLE STRENGTH!

THE AKATSUKI LEADER THAT FLATTENED OUR VILLAGE WAS A FORMER DISCIPLE OF JIRAIYA'S.

.....!

ET-?...

..THE RISE OF THE AKATSUKI ...

...AND NOW THE SURVIVING UCHIHA, SASUKE, HAS GONE ROGUE AND IS ENGAGING IN UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY!

...AND OROCHIMARU'S OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA...

AND THAT GENERATIONAL SOFTNESS ALLOWED OUR ALLY SAND'S BETRAYAL...

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LORD DAIMYO, WHY NOT ALLOW DANZO TO HANDLE MATTERS ON THIS OCCASION?

.....

YES, I'VE DECIDED.

AN AGGRESSIVE, ONE-SIDED WAY OF DOING THINGS IS NOT...

WHAT SORT OF HOKAGE IS NECESSARY IN SUCH TIMES?!

...THE HOKAGE SHOULD BE ME!!

SOMEONE WHO CAN CLEAN UP THIS MESS, REFORM THE SHINOBI WORLD. AND ENFORCE SHINOBI LAWS...

... I HEREBY NAME YOU SIXTH HOKAGE!

DANZO...

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# 451: SASUKE'S DISPOSAL!!

# ナンバー 451：サスケの処分(しょぶん)!!

DON'T YOU THINK WE CAN STILL USE THIS TIMBER?

YEAH... LOOKS LIKE IT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING THE PREVIOUS HOKAGE BUILT IS GONE

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT. I COULDN'T HAVE EVEN IMAGINED.

!

...BUT...

MOKUTON! RENCHUKA NO JUTSU!! WOOD STYLE! ART OF ROW HOUSES!!

WE'RE STILL HERE.

EXCEPT THE HOKAGE'S LEGACY ISN'T JUST THIS VILLAGE, REMEMBER?

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ドドドド
KONOHA WILL BE REBUILT IN NO TIME!
WOOHOO!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
SUPER LONG TIME NO SEE, NARUTO! SAKURA!
!
!
I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS CHEERING UP.. NARUTO.
GAH... WHAT AM I ENCOURAGING HIM FOR?
IT'S OKAY. LADY TSUNADE WILL WAKE UP SOON!
I MEAN, SHE'S REALLY STRONG... AND SHE'S HOKAGE! DON'T WORRY!
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL GRANNY TSUNADE...
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
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I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING TO SEE OUR HERO AGAIN, BIG BROTHER NARUTO!

INARI AND OLD MAN TAZUNA!!

YOU'RE ...

.....

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AND YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN OLDER, OLD MAN.

INARI... YOU'VE GROWN UP!

AW NOW...

I FIGURED WE'D SAY HELLO TO YOU ALL WHILE WE WERE HERE.

I'M A CARPENTER NOW. I ACCEPTED KONOHA'S COMMISSION. AND HERE WE ARE!

BUT THANKS TO YOU, THE LAND OF WAVES IS VERY PROS-PEROUS NOW.

...I'M SO SORRY FOR HAVING EMBROILED YOU ALL IN THAT GATO INCIDENT...

BIG SISTER SAKURA. YOU'RE SO PRETTY NOW!

AAH... REALLY?

INARI ...

...THANKS ...

THAT'S WHY THIS TIME, IT'S OUR TURN TO REPAY YOU!

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WHAT IS IT? IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, I'LL HAVE SOMEONE GET IT FOR YOU.

HMM ...?

KONOHA'S IN CRISIS, SO WE RUSHED OVER!

AAH! KAKA-SHI!

OF COURSE ...

OH?! YOU'RE ALREADY HERE?

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I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM TOO.

WHERE'S SASUKE?

.....

UH ...

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YOU CAN SAY HELLO TO HIM WHEN WE GET BACK.

BUT DON'T WORRY... I'LL GO GET HIM!

...NOT AROUND RIGHT NOW. WE KIND OF HAD A FIGHT AND HE LEFT THE VILLAGE.

?

SAS-UKE'S

W-WELL... SASUKE'S ...ER... UM...

THANK YOU, NARUTO...

...Y-YEAH.

...RIGHT, SAKURA ?!

I'M SURE SASUKE WOULD BE REALLY GLAD TO SEE YOU...

AW SHUCKS, NO WAY!

WHAT...YOU GUYS WERE TANGLED UP IN A LOVE TRIANGLE OR SOMETHING?

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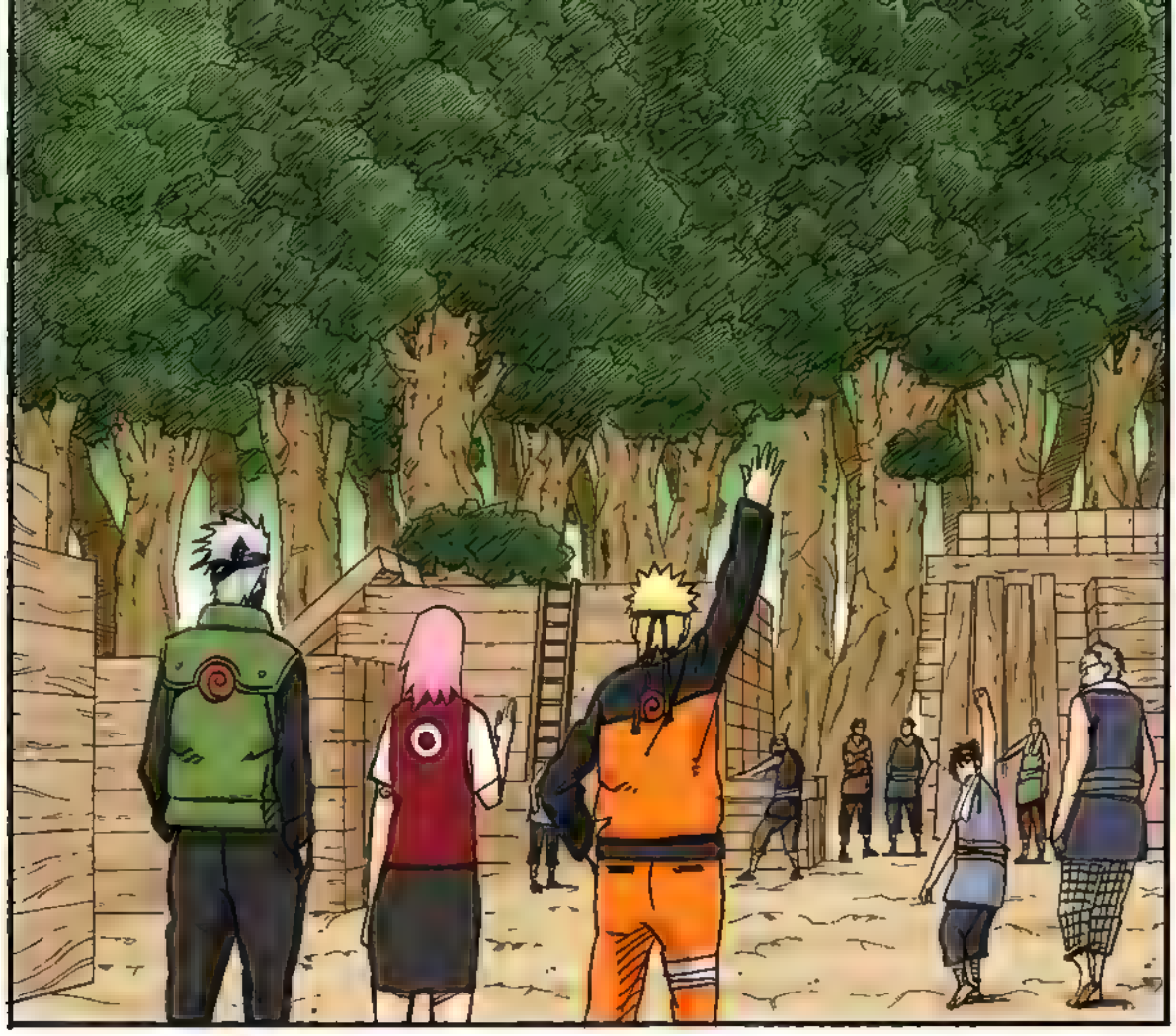

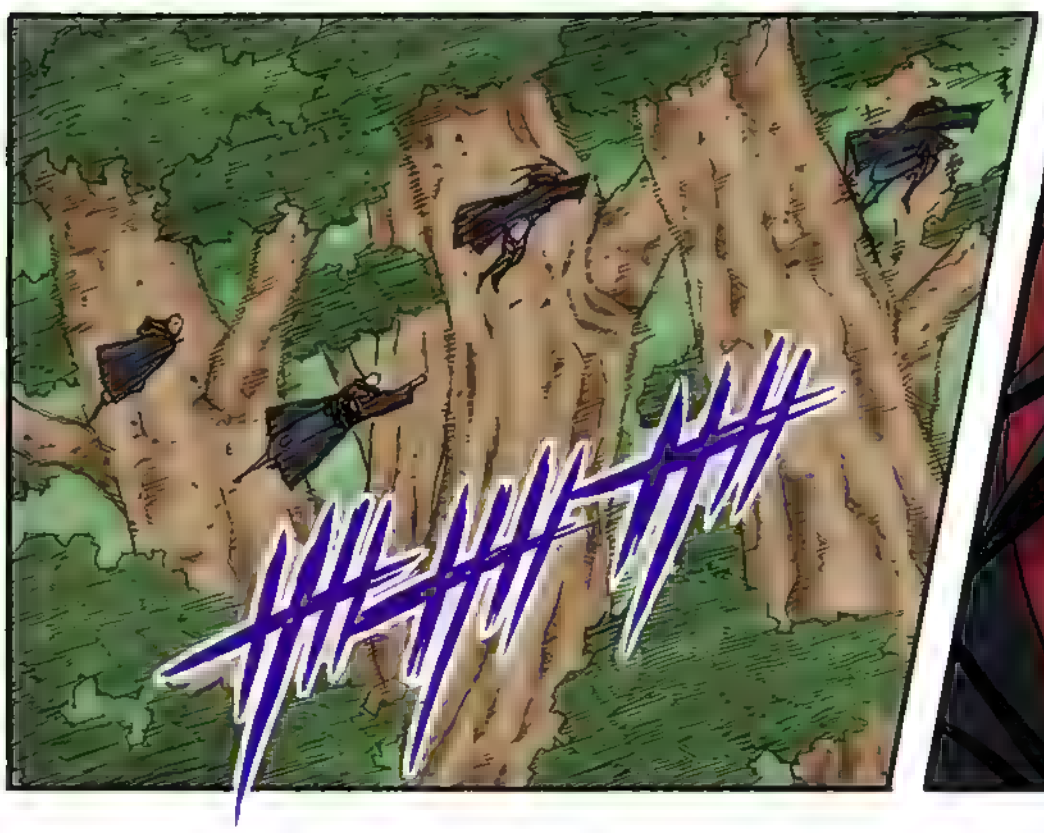

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WHAT CAN YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?! HUNH?!!

YOU WERE ALONE TO BEGIN WITH!!

WHAT CAN YOU POSSI BLY KNOW ABOUT ME?

YOU'VE GOT NO PARENTS, NO BROT- HERS...

.....

油

HOW COULD YOU EVER KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE ANYTHING!!

THIS PAIN IS BORN FROM MY FAMILY BONDS!

.....

!?

...HOW SASUKE FEELS...

NOW I FINALLY UNDER- STAND...

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...WHAT VENGEANCE IS ABOUT.

YOU CANNOT TRULY COMPREHEND SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTIVATIONS UNLESS YOU KNOW THE SAME PAIN THEY DO.

.....

...DO YOU FINALLY COMPREHEND PAIN?

.....

NARU-TO...

WHATEVER I SAID TO SASUKE IN THE FINAL VALLEY, HE WASN'T GOING TO...

I THOUGHT I KNEW HOW SASUKE FELT WHAT HE WAS GOING THROUGH...

...BUT I DIDN'T.

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...BUT NEXT TIME, I WANT TO HAVE A PROPER FIGHT WITH HIM...

IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO HURT REALLY BAD...

...OR EVEN ARGUE WITH EACH OTHER AGAIN.

WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING SASUKE'S PAIN, THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD EVER LAUGH TOGETHER.

...CELL NUMBER SEVEN, INCLUDING SASUKE, CAN ALL LAUGH TOGETHER LIKE WE USED TO!!

AND THEN, SOMEDAY...

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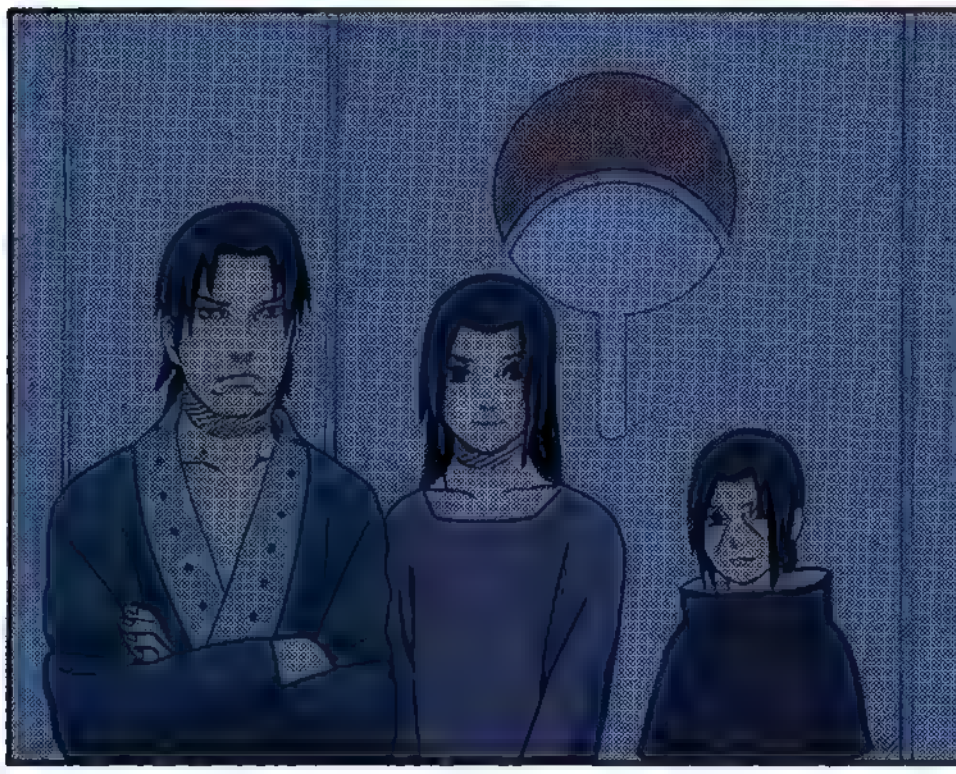

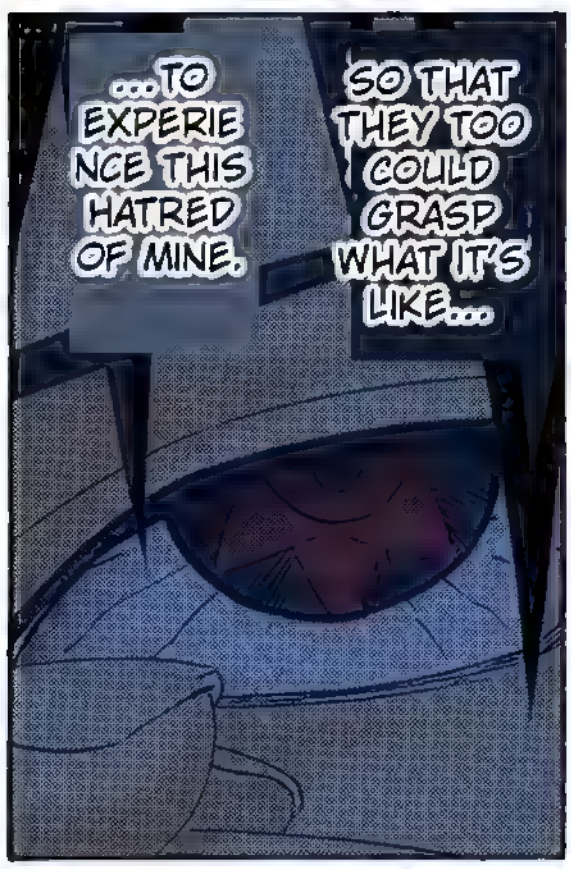

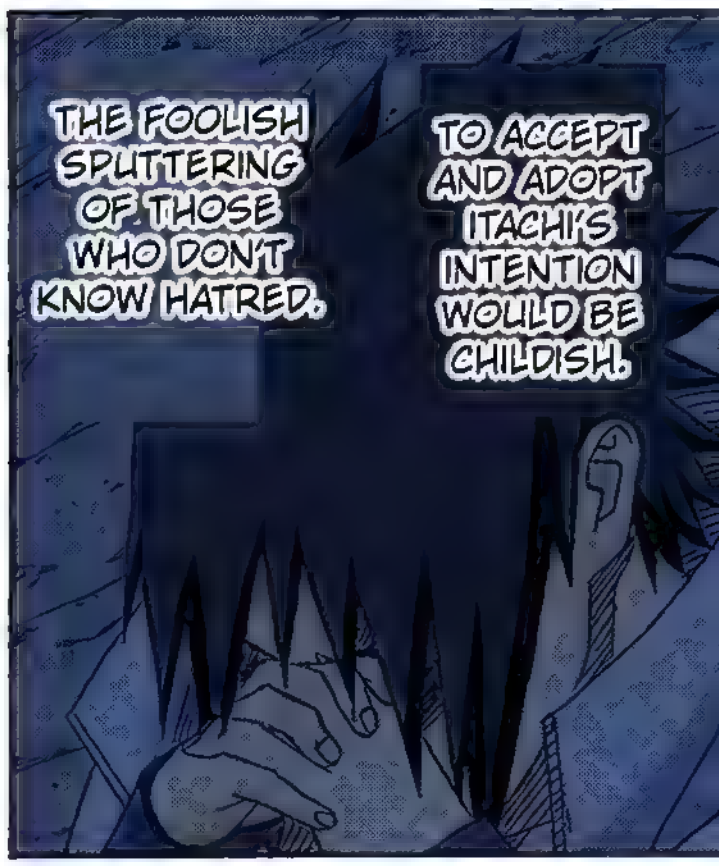


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WHAT HAPPENED?

I WAS SURPRISED NOT TO RUN INTO ANY KONOHA LOOKOUTS, AND THEN TO FIND THE VILLAGE IN SUCH A STATE...

.....

...IT WASN'T ME...

PHEW ...

KONOHA WILL ISSUE AN ALERT SHORTLY ...

...AND TIGHTEN SURVEIL-LANCE.

IT WAS THE AKAT-SUKI...

I BEAR A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE HOKAGE FROM THE RAIKAGE.

IN ANY CASE, I REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH THE HOKAGE.

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SEE.

THIS ONE'S A MISSIVE DEMANDING AN EMERGENCY GOKAGE SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS COMING THROUGH THE CODED PIPES.

UNBELIE-VABLE... WHAT HORRIBLE TIMING...

?

IT'S TERRIBLE

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...AS THE HOKAGE'S AIDE, I SHALL ACCEPT THE LETTER ON HER BEHALF.

COMATOSE?

BUT...

I WOULD LIKE THE LETTER READ AND A RESPONSE GENERATED RIGHT AWAY!

THE RAIKAGE IS IN A RUSH.

IF IT'S NOT KNOWN WHEN SHE WILL REAWAKEN, THEN THE ACTING HOKAGE REGENT WILL DO.

!?

SHE IS NO LONGER HOKAGE.

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DANZO...?!

NO WAY... IT CAN'T BE...!

I SHALL PERUSE THAT LETTER.

I AM THE NEW HOKAGE, LORD SIXTH.

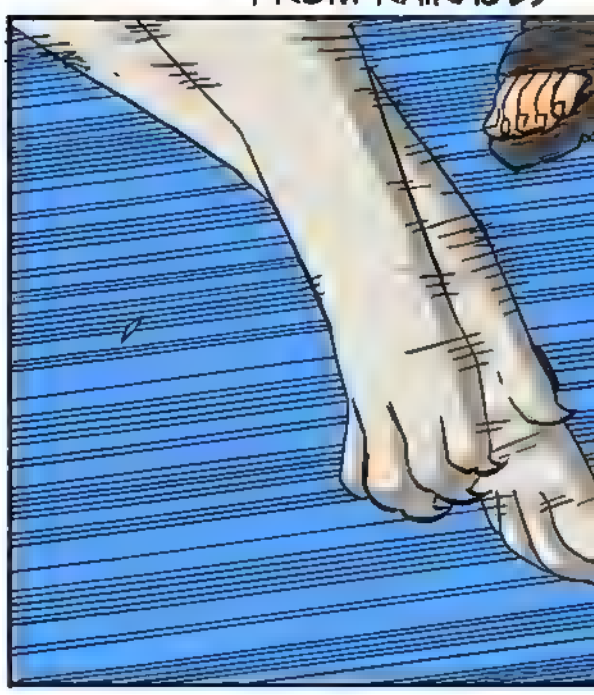
SASUKE. EH... IT HAS COME TO THIS.

AND... YOUR RESPONSE, SIR?

(TO LORD HOKAGE FROM RAIKAGE)

KIBA! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THERE YOU ARE! THERE YOU ARE! HEY!



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HUH?

WHA?!

LADY TSUNADE HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF HER HOKAGE TITLE!

LISTEN UP... AND JUST STAY CALM, ALL RIGHT?!

AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY SHOCKER!

THIS SIXTH HOKAGE DECLARED SASUKE A ROGUE SHINOBI...

...THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...

DANZO, THAT'S ...!

DID YOU SAY DANZO?!

I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH, BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOME INSIDE GUY!

THE SIXTH HOKAGE IS APPARENTLY SOME GUY NAMED DANZO!

!!!

...AND ISSUED A DECREE PERMITTING HIS DISPOSAL!

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...AND THAT'S NOT UNREA-SONABLE.

IT MEANS THAT THEY CAN'T WAIT UNTIL LADY TSUNADE RECOVERS...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

I DON'T REALLY KNOW EITHER!

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE IS TO ERASE HIM.

IT WAS ONLY LADY TSUNADE'S BENEVOLENCE THAT WAS INDULGING US TO SETTLE THIS PRIVATELY...

SASUKE'S A ROGUE SHINOBI.

# ナンバー452：ダンゾウに迫る!!

SAKURA WAIT!

YOUR BARGING OVER THERE WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.

I...

...I'M GOING TO GO TALK TO DANZO!!

# 452: PRESSURED BY DANZO!!

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THIS IS THE ONE TIME YOU NEED TO STAY COOL AND COL-LECTED.

CALM DOWN, BOTH OF YOU.

I'LL GO TOO.

AND ABOUT SASUKE TOO!

...CAN'T STAY SILENT ANY LONGER!

BUT HOW DARE THEY DECIDE THIS WHEN LADY TSUNADE'S NOT EVEN CONSCIOUS!

I SAID WAIT!

!

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY COOL?!

I'M NOT LETTING THEM GO AFTER SASUKE!

WE WON'T BE VIOLENT!

WE'RE JUST GOING TO ASK HIM TO CHANGE HIS DECISION ABOUT SASUKE!

SO YOU GO SEE HIM, THEN WHAT?

DANZO'S ALREADY ANTICIPATED YOUR EXACT REACTION.

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YOU'RE REALLY JUST GOING TO STOP WITH HIS SASUKE DECISION?

IT MAY BE JUST THE LORDS' APPOINTMENT, WITHOUT THE JONIN ASSEMBLY'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE YET: BUT DANZO IS HOKAGE.

PLAY THIS WRONG, YOU'LL BE THROWN IN PRISON.

H-HEY... WHOA...

ME TOO!

パシ

ポン

I DON'T CARE! I'M GOING!

.....

DON'T MAKE A SCENE RIGHT NOW.

AND THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO LOOK FOR SASUKE...

...DANZO WANTS TO CONFINE YOU IN THE VILLAGE, SO ANY ACTING UP ON YOUR PART WILL JUST PLAY RIGHT INTO HIS HANDS.

NARUTO, DON'T FORGET THAT YOU HOST NINE TAILS...

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YES, MASTER?

YES, SIR.

WATCH NARUTO ...

...AND REPORT ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IMMEDIATELY TO ME.

...ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH NARUTO?

WHAT ...

UM... MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

WHAT IS IT?

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DO NOT FRET... NARUTO IS THE VILLAGE'S HERO RIGHT NOW.

ALL OF THE VILLAGERS TRUST AND LOVE HIM...

...MORE SO THAN THEY DO ME, THE SIXTH HOKAGE.

I WILL NOT BE LENIENT, AS TSUNADE WAS.

HOWEVER, NARUTO IS ALSO A JINCHURIKI.

AND IT IS THE HOKAGE'S JOB TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE JINCHÛRIKI...

THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME, PENDING THE JONIN'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

IF I DO SOMETHING TO NARUTO, IT WILL AFFECT MY POSITION AS HOKAGE.

...

...UNDER-STOOD.

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SAI! WE WERE JUST LOOKING FOR YOU.

I WONDER ... CAN I REALLY BREATHE EASY...?

WHAT IS IT?

WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

I CAN'T?

!

.....

PLEASE TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT DANZO.

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BECAUSE OF THIS...

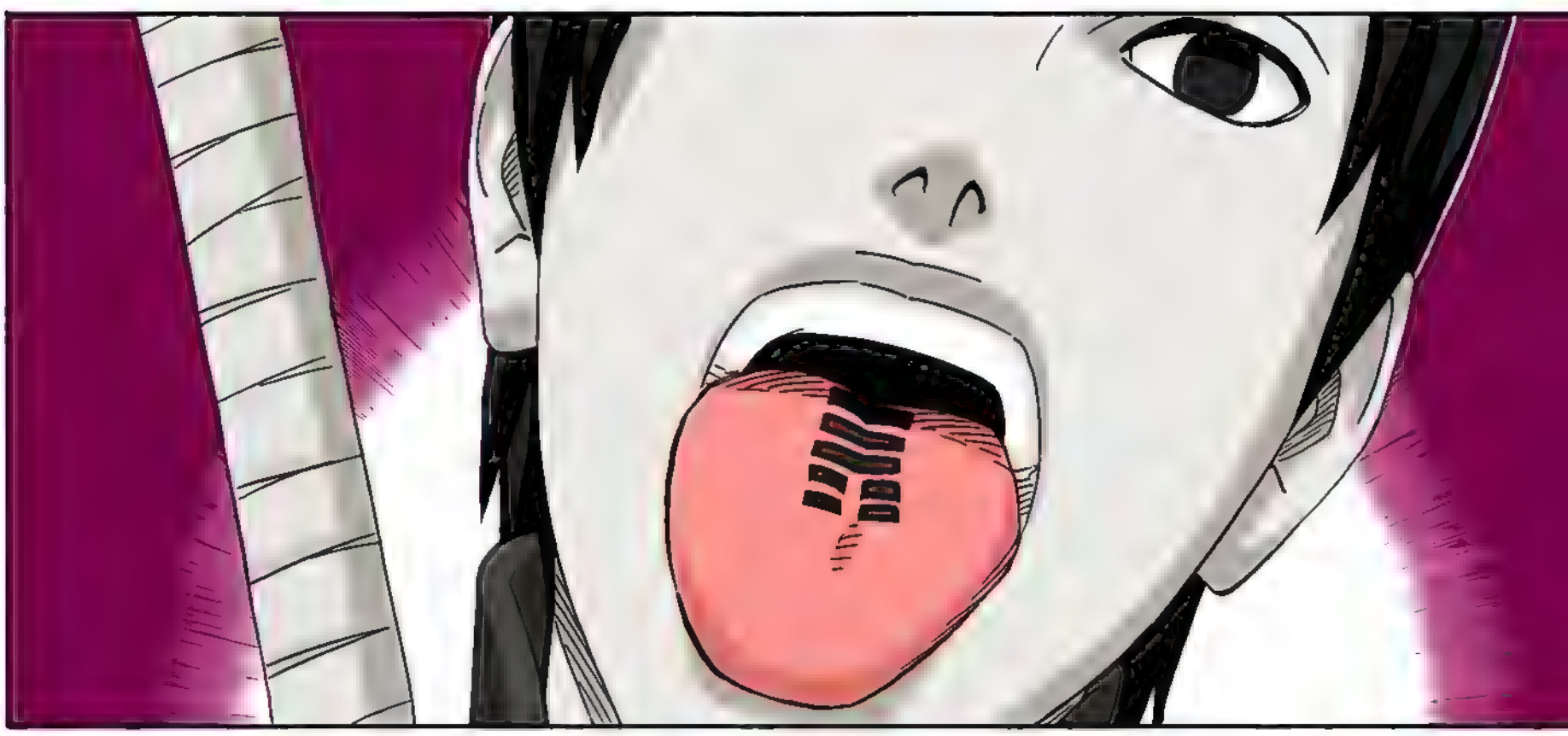
!

NO... THAT'S NOT IT.

I'M LITERALLY PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO TALK ABOUT LORD DANZO.

WHY NOT?!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BACK ON HIS SIDE!!



HE'S A CAUTIOUS ONE...

YES, IT IS... A JUTSU CAST BY LORD DANZO HIMSELF SO IF ONE TRIES TO TALK ABOUT LORD DANZO, ONE BECOMES COMPLETELY PARALYZED, UNABLE TO SPEAK OR MOVE...

ALL OF US IN THE FOUNDATION BEAR ONE.

IS THAT... A CURSE MARK...?

WHAT THE... WHAT IS THAT?

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SUCH AS MAKING SURE WE CAN'T SPILL A SINGLE WORD EVEN IF WE'RE CAPTURED...

...WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT ANY LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION.

WE'VE DONE A LOT OF CLANDESTINE DIRTY WORK TO KEEP THIS VILLAGE SAFE...

WELL, LORD DANZO AND THE FOUNDATION ARE TOP-SECRET ENTITIES.

HIS METHODS MAY BE HEAVY-HANDED ... BUT HE DOES CARE VERY DEEPLY ABOUT THE VILLAGE.

THAT'S HOW WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT KONOHA FROM BELOW.

I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT PLACING CURSE MARKS ON ONE'S OWN SUBORDI-NATES!!

BUT THAT'S SO EXT-REME...

!

R-REALLY?

HE DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT SASUKE TO...

HE'S PLANNING TO DISPATCH TRACKING UNITS TO CHASE AFTER HIM!

THEN WHY DID HE REVOKE LADY TSUNADE'S EDICT REGARDING SASUKE?!

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!!

SO TELL US ALL ABOUT THIS SASUKE, EH.

SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM!

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!?
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ART OF SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!

DON'T CUT HIM!!

I KNOW!

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HO!

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OH, YEAH!

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SAKU-
RA!

AIEE!

UGH!

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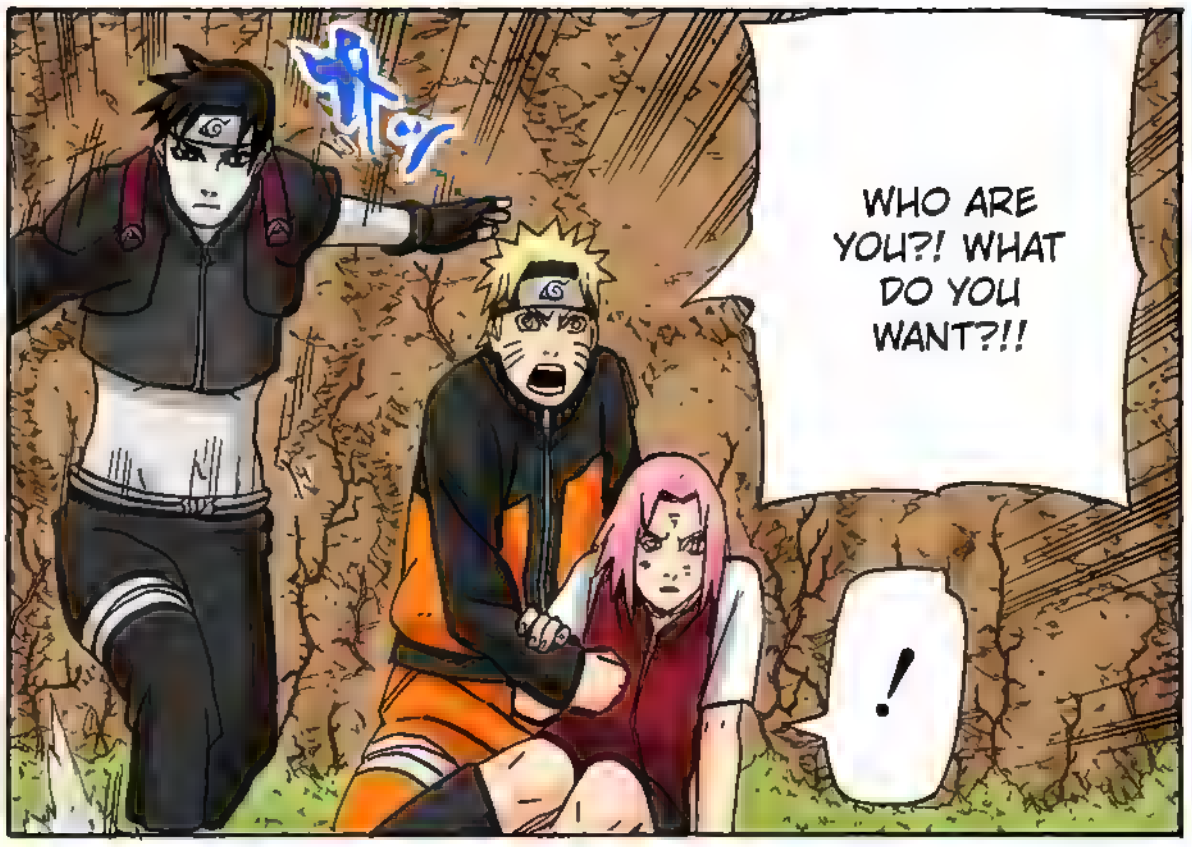

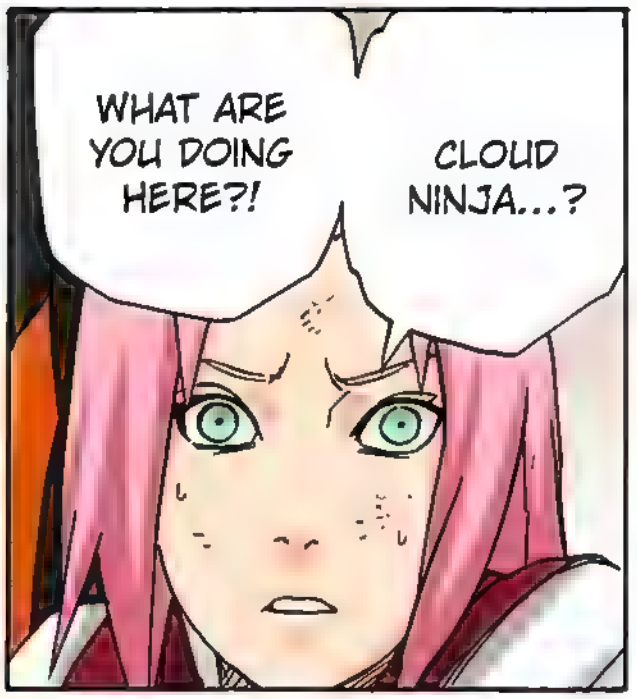

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WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF MASTER'S DEAD OR ALIVE, FOOLS!!!

YOUR ROGUE SHINOBI UCHIHA KIDNAPPED OUR TEACHER!!

!!?

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE AKATSUKI?!

HOW SHOULD WE KNOW THE AKATSUKI'S MOTIVES?

B-BUT NO WAY...

...WHY WOULD SASUKE... DO SUCH A THING...?!

SASUKE'S A MEMBER OF THE AKATSUKI!!!

HUH?!! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!

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WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN THE HOKAGE'S PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF UCHIHA!!

IT'S CUZ YOU ALL LET THAT ROGUE SHINOBI RUN LOOSE...

...THAT LORD RAIKAGE DISPATCHED US!

!?

WE'LL TAKE DOWN UCHIHA!

WE'RE GOING TO AVENGE OUR MASTER!

SASUKE... KIDNAPPED THESE GUYS' TEACHER ...

SASUKE... WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU...?!!

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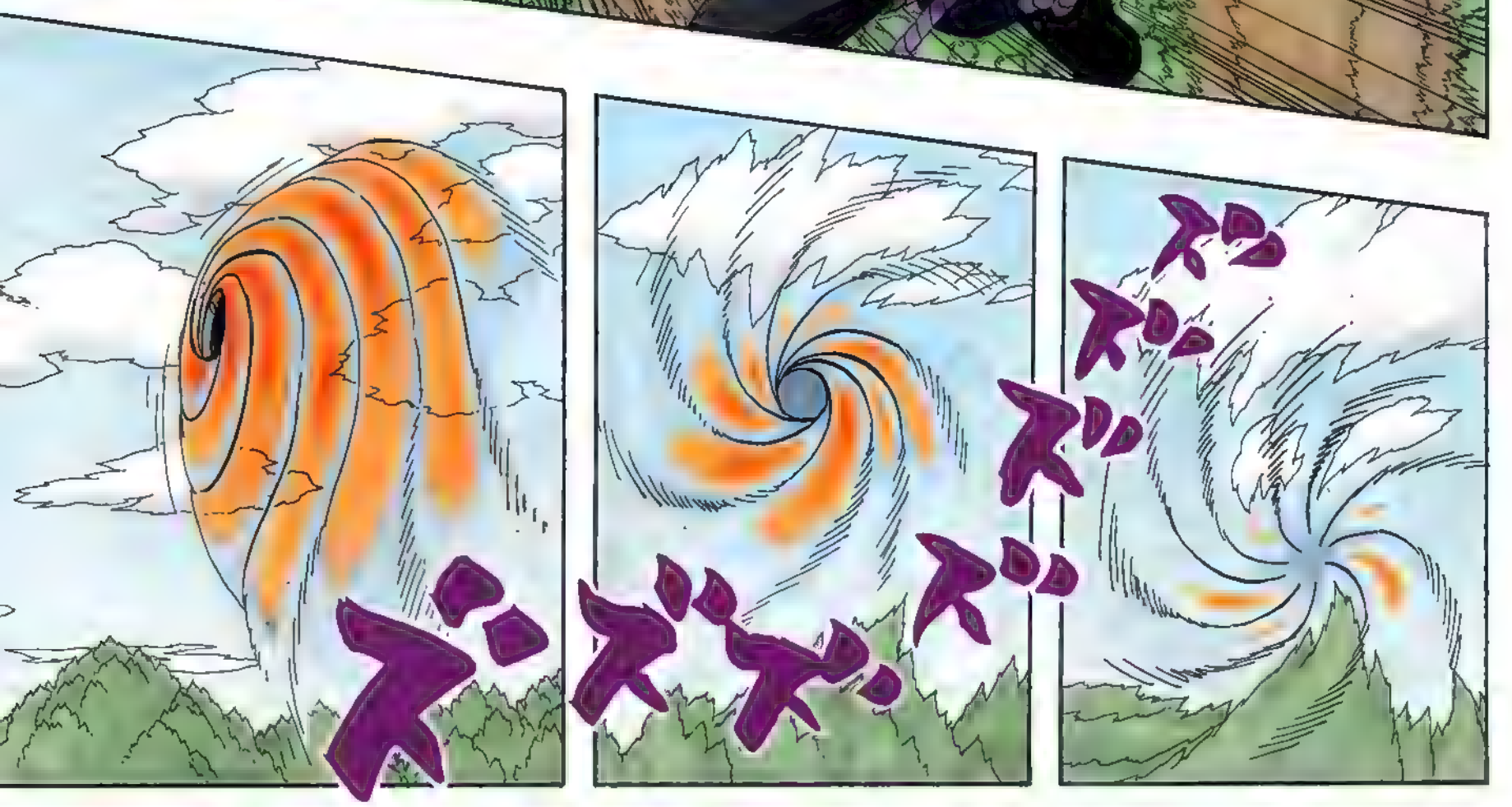
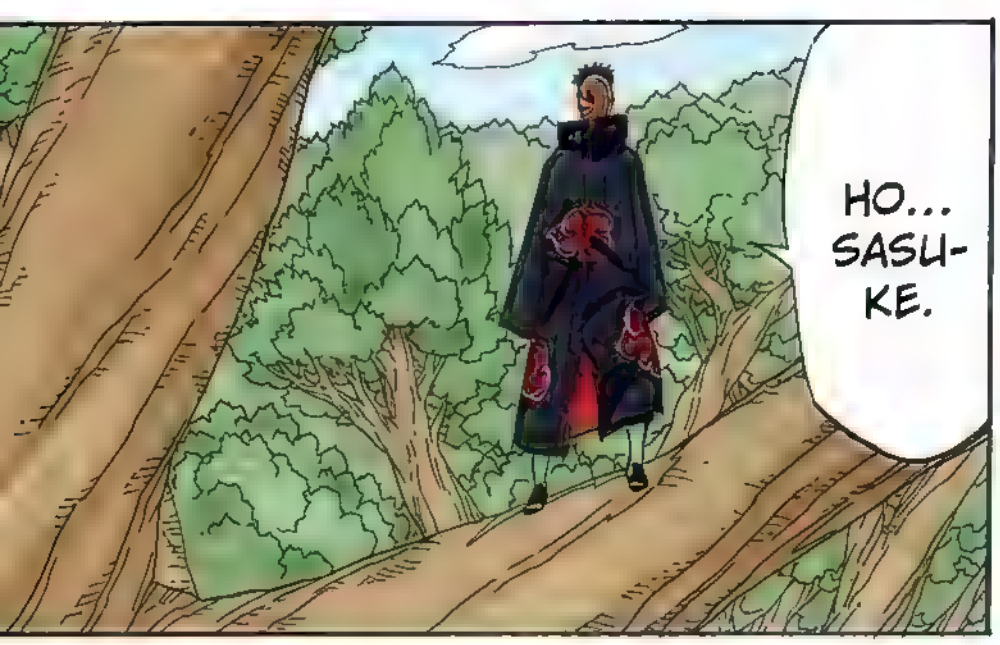
# 453: GOKAGE'S SUMMIT'S EVE...!!

# ナンバー 453：五影会談前夜…!!



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# 453: GOKAGE'S SUMMIT'S EVE...!!

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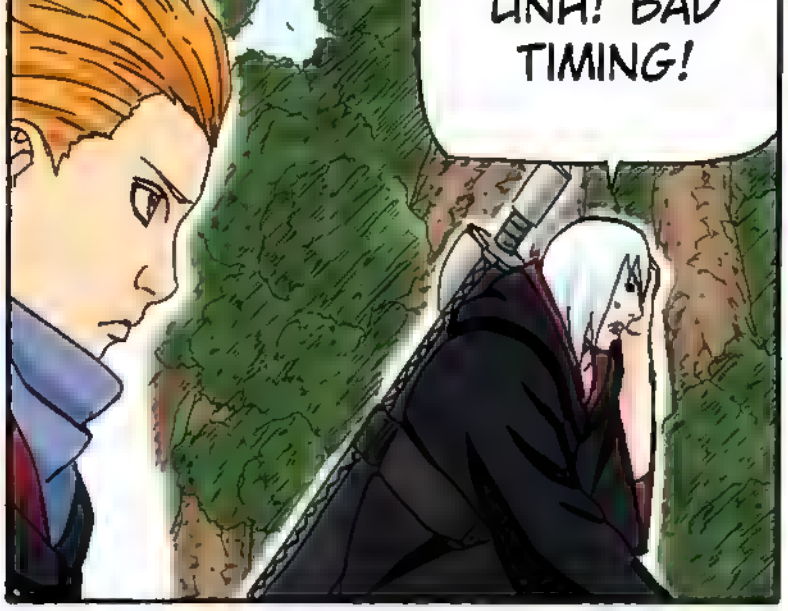


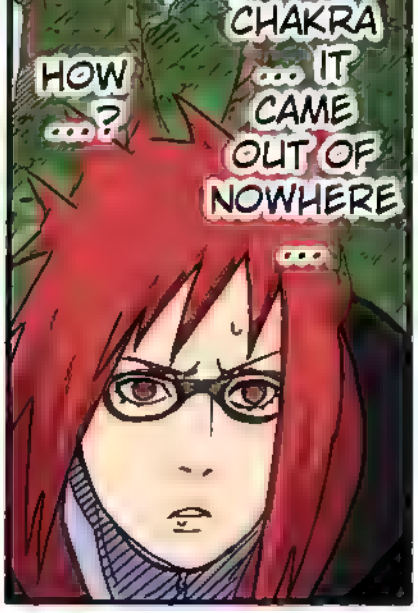

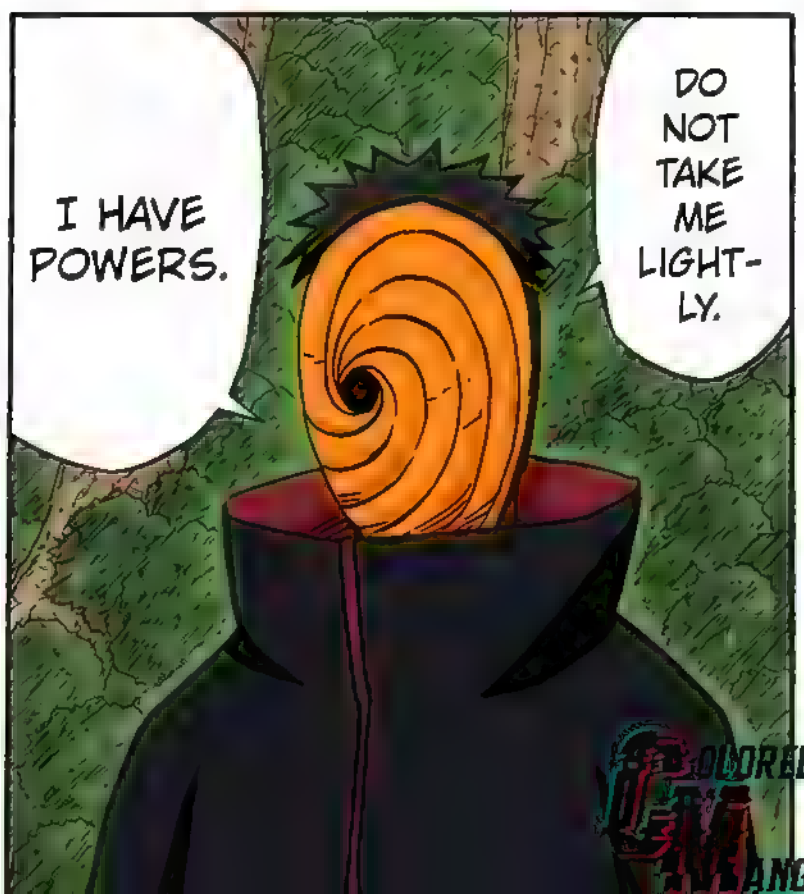


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I WARNED YOU THAT YOU WOULD DIE IF YOU BETRAYED THE AKATSUKI.

AND YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR PACT WITH ME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE BIJU HUNT.

BUT WE ALREADY CAPTURED AND HANDED EIGHT TAILS OVER TO YOU!

!?

!?

!?

!?

...IN SHORT, YOU BLUNDERED.

THAT WAS A SUBSTITU-TION

HONESTLY YOU'VE DISAP-POINTED ME.

EIGHT TAILS PULLED A FAST ONE ON YOU.

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IT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN I SLICED OFF THAT TENTACLE ...

!

THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO CREATE A DOPPELGANGER...

BUT I WAS WATCHING HIM WITH THE SHARINGAN THE WHOLE TIME...

THEN WE WILL BATTLE IT OUT HERE.

AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO TO KONOHA.

AND WHAT IF WE DECLINE ...?

...THOUGH IT WON'T BE EIGHT TAILS...

I DISAGREE... YOU WILL COMPLETE THE JOB YOU WERE ASSIGNED.

I HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE YOU CARRY OUT A DIFFERENT MISSION.

IT'S NOT OUR BUSINESS ANYMORE!

SO... WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT?!

!

PUSH THROUGH ...!

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IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GO TO KONOHA...

!?

ZA

THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA-GAKURE IS NO MORE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOUR OBJECTIVE SEEMS SO FUTILE, NOW... IT'S SAD.

I PASSED RIGHT THROUGH HIM... JUST LIKE BEFORE... IS THIS ONE OF HIS TALENTS?!

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!?

WHAT?!

ズズズ…

IT'S FINE... HE'S AN ASSOCIATE.

WHO'S THAT?!

THAT, I CAN EXPLAIN.

ズズズ…

SO... WHO'S THE NEW HOKAGE?

THAT DANZO FELLOW.

AS I HAD ANTICI-PATED.

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HE'S BECOME THE NEW HOKAGE.

THAT'S RIGHT, ONE OF THE KONOHA ELDERS WHO BACKED YOUR OLDER BROTHER INTO A CORNER.

...IS HOKAGE ...?

DANZO...

AND THANKS TO BOTH YOU AND PAIN SHOWING OFF, EVEN THE GOKAGE SEEM TO HAVE GONE ON THE MOVE.

MY UNDER-LING PAIN DESTROYED KONOHA.

...WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED IN KONOHA?!

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.

THEY ARE CONVENING A GOKAGE SUMMIT COFERENCE.

THE FIVE SHADOWS, HUH...

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NOT JUST HIS NINJUTSU STYLE AND ABILITIES...

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT SASUKE.

...BUT ALSO ANY DATA YOU'VE COLLECTED ON HIS COMPANIONS AND THE AKATSUKI,AND THIER PAST ACTS, AS WELL.

KLAK

WHAT'S SASUKE TO YOU, EH?!

YOU THERE... YOU'RE STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES, GIRL!

KLAK

SASUKE WOULD NEVER JOIN THE AKATSUKI!

B...BUT THEIR'S NO WAY!

UNH... UNH...

IT... IT CAN'T BE TRUE...

PLIP

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UNH... UNH...

YEAH! THEY SAW THE UCHIHA CREST!

AND HIS FACE MATCHES WHAT APPEARS ON THE LIST.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE?!

BUT WEEPING WON'T BRING BACK NEITHER LORD KILLER BEE NOR LADY YUGITO.

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CRY, THEN YOU HAVE TO TELL US ABOUT SASUKE!

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR! WE ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULD WEEP!

YOU KNOW FROM THE MOMENT THE ORDER TO DISPOSE OF SASUKE WAS APPROVED ...

...ANY AND EVERY PIECE OF KONOHA INTEL ON SASUKE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO YOU ALL.

WAIT A MINUTE.

HUH?!

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WE FIGURED WE'D TRY TO GLEAN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THOSE TWO MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING, THAT'S ALL!

SURE, YOU'RE RIGHT! OUR SQUAD LEADER'S WAITING TO RECIEVE THE DATA AS WE SPEAK!

WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING WHEN WE HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR SENSEI!!

THERE'S NO NEED TO PRESSURE THESE TWO THIS MUCH...

THOUGH YOU ALL, BEING OUTSIDERS, PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW!

...

I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING!

I WILL AVENGE PERVY SAGE!

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!?

HOW'D YOU KNOW ...?!

YOUR TEACHER. HE'S A JINCHU-RIKI?

FOR REAL?!

WHAT?!

THE AKATSUKI ALWAYS TAKE THE JINCHURIKI ALIVE.

I AM A JINCHURIKI! THE AKATSUKI ARE HUNTING US!

SO YOUR TEACHER MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE TOO.

I AM NOT AN OUTSIDER...

I TOLD YOU!

THERE'S NO WAY MASTER WOULD FALL SO EASILY!

YOU'RE REALLY REALLY SURE? YOU BETTER BE RIGHT!

SO FORGET ABOUT SASUKE... YOU'VE GOT TO RESCUE YOUR SENSEI FIRST!

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COME ALONG WITH US AND TELL US ABOUT SASUKE!

HEY BLONDIE, YOU'VE GOT A SHARP HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS!

AND GIVE YOU EVERY-THING I'VE GOT ON THE AKATSUKI

I'LL HELP YOU FIND AND RESCUE YOUR TEACHER.

LET ME HANDLE THIS, SAKURA.

...

NARUTO!

NARUTO?!

SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

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IN FACT, I THINK HE'S STRONGER THAN SASUKE RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S BECOME EXTREMELY STRONG.

THIS NARUTO FELLOW DEFEATED PAIN ALL BY HIMSELF?

HEH...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT... WHAT IS A PROBLEM IS THIS GOKAGE SUMMIT.

....

WITH KONOHA GONE...

...IF OUR TARGET DANZO'S GOING TO THIS SUMMIT, SHOULDN'T WE HEAD THERE TOO?

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?

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CHANGE OF DESTI-NATIONS.

WE OF TAKA WILL TAKE THE HOKAGE'S HEAD AT THE GOKAGE SUMMIT.

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W-WHAT?

AM I WRONG?

MY DOPPEL-GANGER WILL GUIDE YOU

ZETSU

ZWOOM

GAH... THIS IS BECOMING A REALLY BOTHER-SOME SITUATION

SO... WHERE IS THIS GOKAGE SUMMIT TAKING PLACE?

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ズゴゴゴ…

バッ

FOLLOW ME!

ダッ

!

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TEST OUT, ANYWAY.

IF ANYTHING SEEMS FISHY, I'LL GET RID OF HIM WITH THE AMATERASU.

WE'LL JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM FOR NOW.

CAN WE REALLY TRUST THEM?

ｽｯ

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SO I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LINKING HIM TO THE GEDO STATUE ANYTIME SOON.

I THINK IT WOULD BE WISER TO JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

THUS, EVEN IF SASUKE SURPASSES NAGATO, IT'S COMPLETELY MEANINGLESS IF WE CAN'T CONTROL HIM

THAT WENT WELL

...WELL... I NEVER THOUGHT THAT NAGATO WOULD USE THAT GEDO ART OF RINNE REBIRTH THAT HE DEVELOPED FOR ME. AND FOR SUCH A THING...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BETRAY-ED ME...

WHAT NEXT THEN?

DO WE GO TOO?

AS A PRECAUTION... BUT WE'VE DEFINITLY FALLEN OFF MY IDEAL PATH. THANKS TO UZUMAKI NARUTO... HE'S CAUSED OUR PLANS TO SHIFT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD ACTUALLY FORESEEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT NAGATO MIGHT DIE...

PUT A RUSH ON PROJECT TSUKI NO ME!

WE'RE DONE WITH MOVING AHEAD WITH CAUTION

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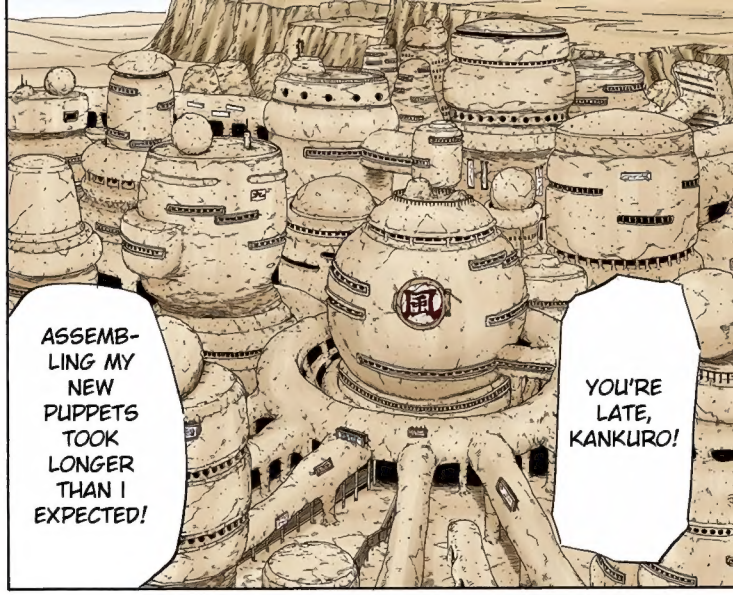
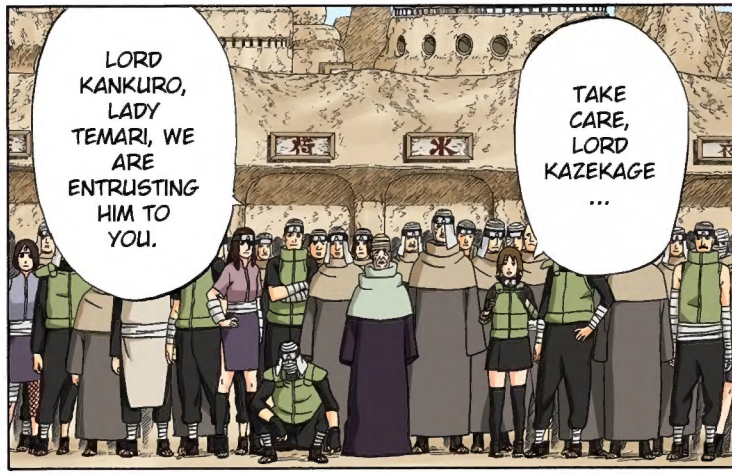
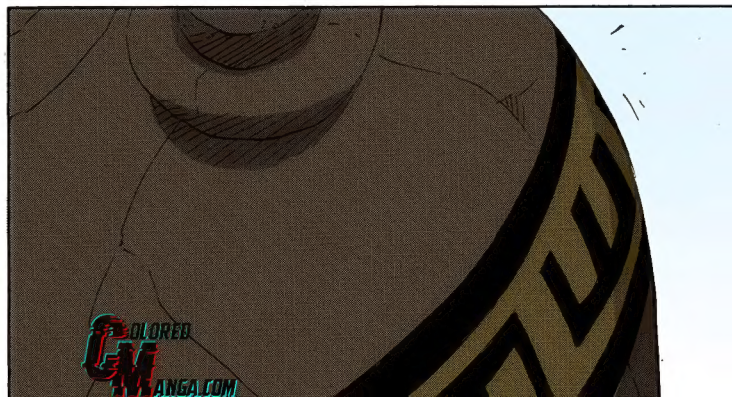
BUT GAARA DOESN'T REALLY NEED BODY-GUARDS!
WE'RE OFF
WE KNOW.


ASSEMB-LING MY NEW PUPPETS TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED!
YOU'RE LATE, KANKURO!


LORD KANKURO, LADY TEMARI, WE ARE ENTRUSTING HIM TO YOU.
TAKE CARE, LORD KAZEKAGE ...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